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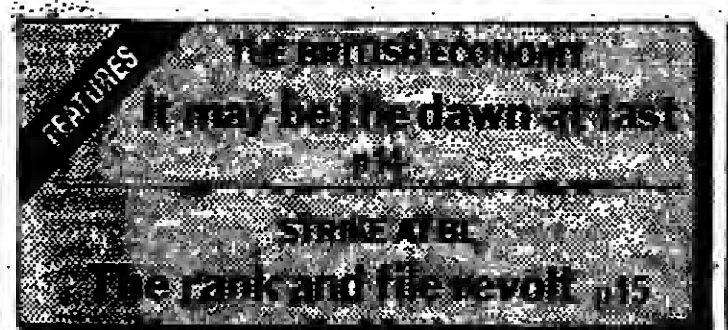


NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Reform of refugee rules planned

In the face of criticism over the deportation to Romania of Stancu Papasiou, the Government plans to change the rules for illegal immigrants claiming refugee status.

Applications will be notified to the Immigration Advisory Service's refugee counsellors and attempts may be made to keep bodies such as the British Romanian Association in touch.

Answering backbench Tory criticism, Home Office Minister David Waddington said there was a strong case for reform. Page 3

Easter deaths

A woman and her six-year-old son died in a car crash near Rhyl, north Wales. Easter travellers brought a 20-mile jam on the M4 in Thames Valley; long tailbacks were also reported on the M1 near Luton, the M6 and the M61.

'Spy' denial

The Soviet Union denied that the two diplomats and a journalist given seven days to leave Britain had been spying. Four Soviet diplomats were also reported to have left March 3.

200 die in quake

At least 200 are known to have died in a severe earthquake which hit the city of Popayan in southwest Colombia.

James baby born

Yachtswoman Dame Naomi James has had a baby girl, 11 days after her husband Rob drowned.

S. Africa protest

South African Coloureds and Asians attacked a government plan for a white-only referendum on a new constitution. Page 2

Politics returns

Meetings in the offices of Bangladesh political parties became legal again after a year-long ban as a prelude to the return of democracy.

Dublin raid

Police arrested 11 people in a raid on Irish National Liberation Army members in Dublin.

Liege owes you

Liege, in Belgium, is to give its 12,000 employees and 2,500 retired staff IOUs this month instead of pay. The city is £615m in debt.

Sporting wife

SW Cambs. Tories will hold a secret ballot on whether to confirm Hugh Simmonds as parliamentary candidate after finding his wife belongs to the League Against Cruel Sports.

Briefly . . .

Vaclav Hula, Czechoslovak Deputy Premier, died at 57.

Zimbabwe lifted restrictions on the sale of petrol.

Devon County Council appointed a genealogist.

Financial Times

The Financial Times will not be published on Easter Monday, April 4.

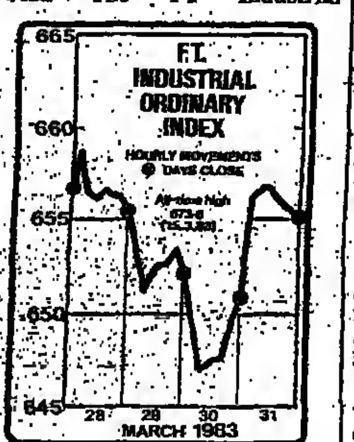
BUSINESS

Jobless trend continues upward

● UNEMPLOYED total including school-leavers was 3.17m last month, 27,000 fewer than in February. But the seasonally adjusted total excluding school-leavers rose by 25,000 to 3.03m. Back Page. Redundancies in February have been provisionally estimated at 28,000, against 29,000 in January and an average 37,000 for the last three months of last year. Page 4; U.S. jobless rate falls, Page 2

● GILTS extended their recovery on Thursday in thin trade as sterling rallied. Longs gained a point and shorts ¼ before drifting lower after the official close. Page 22

● EQUITIES also rose, although finished below the best. The FT Industrial Ordinary index, up 5.9 at noon, closed 4.1 ahead at 655.1.



● WALL STREET fell 13.26 to 1,130.03 on Thursday, on volume of 100.57m shares. Page 18

● STERLING eased in New York on Thursday to $1.48225 after gaining 1.9 cents to $1.4835 in London, where it firmed to DM 3.6025 (DM 3.5575), FFr 10.785 (FFr 10.645), SwFr 3.0925 (SwFr 3.0525) and Y354.5 (Y351.5). Its trade-weighted index was 79.5 (78.5).

● DOLLAR closed in New York on Thursday at DM 2.4285, FFr 7.275, SwFr 2.082 and Y239.1 after easing in London to DM 2.4265 (DM 2.4275) and Y238.85 (Y239.75) but holding at FFr 7.27 and SwFr 2.083. Its trade-weighted index was 122.7 (122.5). Page 19

● GOLD fell $3.5 to $414.5 in London on Thursday. In New York the Comex April settlement was $415.9 ($413.2). Page 19

Lucas turns in losses of £5.2m for first half

● LUCAS INDUSTRIES, vehicle and aircraft accessories maker, turned in pre-tax losses of £5.2m for the six months to January 31, against profits of £7m, after redundancies and closures provisions of £8.1m (£2.3m). Page 16; Lex, Back Page

● KYOCERA, Japanese supplier of ceramic components to the electronics industry, will absorb Yashica, camera maker, on October 1. Page 21

● ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL, tobacco and brewing group, is paying £30m cash for a 20 per cent stake in Cartier, Paris-based jeweller. Back Page

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES THURSDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES		
Treasury 15¼% '98 £124½		+ 1
Excheq. 12% '13-17 £116½		+ ½
BAT Inds.	655	+ 25
BICC	233	+ 10
Babcock	150	+ 12
Barget	135	+ 10
Bowater	170	+ 7
British Printing	108	+ 6
Cowan de Groot	35	+ 6
Debenhams	113	+ 6
Elys (Wimbledon)	215	+ 27
Fisons	580	+ 27
G.R.E.	432	+ 10
General Accident	392	+ 14
London & Liverpool	430	+ 6
Martin The Newsagent	200	+ 15
Miller (S.)	24½	+ 8
Ocean Transport	91	+ 6
Phoenix Assurance	318	+ 8
Sharpar Ware	95	+ 6
Steetley	218	+ 10
Turner & Newall	36	+ 6
Unigroup	43	+ 3
BP	340	+ 24
Burmah Oil	175	+ 14
Shell Transport	470	+ 24
Ashton Mining	76	+ 5
Buffels	£33¼	+ 1½
President Brand	£29½	+ 1½
Rustenburg Platinum	480	+ 15
Samantha	40	+ 7
Vaal Reefs	£68½	+ 2½
Western Deep	£34½	+ 1½
Western Mining	243	+ 5
FALLS		
Bambers Stores	15	− 3
Johnson Cleaners	340	− 6
Lucas Inds.	156	− 6
Milford Docks	98	− 12
Minet	132	− 4

Peace movement's human chain has a few weak links

BRITAIN's peace movement yesterday occupied 14 miles of country road in Berkshire in a symbolic attempt to "break the nuclear chain" with a human chain of more than 50,000 people. Ian Hargreaves writes from Aldermaston.

Like a vast police identity parade, the protesters stood for an hour in whipping winds laced occasionally with rain while CND stewards struggled to master the movement's most ambitious demonstration to date.

In the event, problems with walkie-talkies and a shortage of stewards denied the organisers the precision they had hoped for when, at 2 pm, demonstrators were asked to link hands and release balloons, many labelled "balloons not bombs," into the wintery sky.

At one point in the line, 2 pm passed in chilly if cheerful confusion before people abandoned the idea of linking and threw away their balloons ready for a long trudge over the Berkshire hills to a rally in a marshy field on Padworth Common.

In the end the scene resembled one of those immense country gatherings of the 1940s when hikers used their foot power to force the aristocracy to turn over access to their land for proletarian pleasures.

Set against the backcloth of church spires and cattle, it was not intended to be CND's biggest gathering—that record is held by the 200,000 people who attended the movement's London demonstration in 1981. But yesterday's events had been built up as part of CND's efforts to hold its own in the face of a strong propaganda counter-attack from the Government.

On Thursday that counter-offensive took Mr Michael Heseltine to the Berlin Wall, where he told the TV cameras that the allied soldiers of the West rather than the protesters were Europe's real peace people.

The CND demonstration was also an attempt to cover up what many see as a damaging schism, by linking the defiantly feminist peace camp at RAF Greenham Common, Britain's first site for cruise missiles, with the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Establishment which was the target of CND's very first march 25 years ago.

The human chain also rattled its message outside the Burghfield factory where atomic warheads are made and it was here and in Aldermaston that religious services were held yesterday.

At the Greenham end of the chain a signpost bluntly informed male intruders to go to Burghfield or Aldermaston to do their protesting. Having started their own day with the now routine invasion of the base, the women kept Greenham women only, with a hesitant fade into the mixed sex chain further down the road.

Other cultural disharmony was also in evidence. Although the protesters were mostly under 35, with a few cane wielding Foot-like veterans, they came in all colours and styles, ranging from punk rockers with Mohican hair styles to conventionally dressed people.

At the Greenham site, 18 months of camping out has created a common culture and a well rehearsed song book, whereas down the line musical

Continued on Back Page

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN warned that if the nuclear freeze movement persisted in dividing American opinion the Soviets would only "dig in their heels" in the hope that domestic political pressures would prevent the U.S. from matching Soviet nuclear capabilities. Page 2

IN BRITAIN Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, said of the CND campaign: "Every mile they march, every yard they stretch, they strengthen the Kremlin case."

GERMANY was the scene of anti-nuclear peace demonstrations, expected to attract 500,000 protestors over the Easter holiday. Police removed 100 people who blocked the gates to the U.S. base at Neu-Ulm in Bavaria.

Civil servants accept 3.5% to 5.5% rises

BY JOHN LLOYD, LABOUR EDITOR

CIVIL SERVICE union leaders have agreed to pay rises for their 520,000 members ranging between 3.5 and 5.5 per cent.

The Treasury has said the average increase — which includes rises on the basic rate and on London weighting, with a flat-rate increase — is 4.86 per cent, although unions claim it is just over 5 per cent.

The difference is important because of its effect on other public sector white-collar groups. Teachers in England and Wales are presently in pay talks, although their Scottish counterparts, who bargain separately, have settled for an increase of 4.9 per cent. Local authority white-collar workers are due to settle in July.

It appeared last night that the Government was well enough pleased with the settlement, stressing the amicable nature of the talks. Industrial action, while ritually threatened early in the discussions, never arose as a serious option. This was partly because of the lessons learned two years ago during the prolonged and largely unsuccessful industrial action waged by civil servants.

Rapid conclusion of the deal also confirms that the waterworkers' uniquely high settlement of about 10 per cent in February has not established a bench-mark in the public sector.

Settlement came on Thursday after a Cabinet committee meeting decision, relayed to the union leaders, that pay rises would be kept around the 4.5 per cent mark. The Government then told the union negotiators that they would table the offer only if they agreed to recommend it to their members.

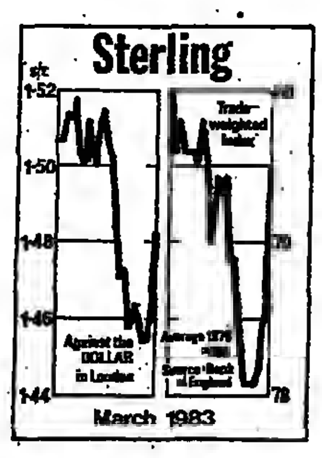
Union leaders said yesterday that the deal was the best that negotiations could deliver, and that they had succeeded in changing the offer's original bias against the low-paid to one marginally favouring the lower salary grades.

Mr Alastair Graham, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, the largest union, said his membership was not ready for industrial action. He will have to sell the deal to his executive on Tuesday.

The agreement gives 4 per cent rises from April 1 for staff on maximum pay grades—estimated to be some 70 per cent—and 3.5 per cent rises for others. In addition, all staff will receive a £70 increase over the year.

London weighting for workers in Inner London will be increased to £1,250. In addition, all proficiency and responsibility allowances are to be increased by 4.5 per cent.

Both sides have agreed that the settlement will not prejudice discussions now going on to thrash out a new pay structure in line with recommendations of the Megaw Report, which proposed a new system for deciding civil servants' pay.



£ recovers sharply

By Jeremy Stone

STERLING recovered sharply on the foreign exchange markets on Thursday as speculators reacted to improved prospects of stable prices for crude oil and currency dealers squared off their books ahead of the long Easter weekend.

The pound regained nearly 2 cents in London to close at $1.4835, reaching its highest closing level for a fortnight, but eased in New York to $1.48225. On Monday this week it had closed in London at a record low point of $1.4540. There were also strong gains against other major currencies, and sterling closed 4½ pfennigs higher on the day in London at DM 3.6025.

The Bank of England's index of the effective exchange

Continued on Back Page

Nigeria eases oil price war fear

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FEARS OF an oil price war receded further yesterday after Nigeria said it would leave its oil prices unchanged, in spite of the decision by the British National Oil Corporation to cut its crude prices.

On Wednesday BNOC said it was cutting the price of Brent crude by 50 cents a barrel, to $30.00, and its other oil prices by 75 cents a barrel, to around $28.80-$29.75. Brent crude, which accounts for about a third of Britain's output of 2.2m-2.3m barrels a day (b/d), is directly competitive with Nigeria's Bonny Light.

An official statement from Lagos said the BNOC cuts were "broadly in line with Nigerian and Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries thinking."

Nigeria had earlier promised to match any British cut in its benchmark price for crude "cent for cent." But the Lagos statement said the Nigerian Government regarded BNOC's price decisions as a "genuine attempt to restore stability to the market."

The statement emphasised that a prime concern for the oil producing nations was to restore confidence to the market. The statement said "This is being done by strengthening the existing price structure and restraining production."

Nigeria's output is thought to have averaged about 900,000 barrels a day in March, the third month running it will have been less than 1m b/d. The country's production quota, set at Opec's London meeting early last month, is 1.3m b/d.

Reports from Nigeria yesterday suggested that there had been strong pressure within the Nigerian Government to match the higher British cuts. But the government had concluded that such an expression of annoyance would not have increased production and would only have lost revenue.

They said Nigeria would have preferred Britain's Forties crude to have been priced at the same level as Bonny Light, as it is more valuable to refiners than Brent.

U.S. bars F-16 sale until Israel withdraws

BY PATRICK COCKBURN, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT REAGAN said yesterday that the U.S. would not deliver 75 F-16 fighter-bombers to Israel until Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon.

Senior Israeli officials immediately voiced anger over President Reagan's statement and described it as "most unfortunate." It is the first time the U.S. has linked the delivery of the aircraft to the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Washington is concerned that the Reagan peace plan, announced last September, is losing credibility in the Middle East. King Hussein of Jordan, whose participation is vital if peace talks are to get off the ground, has said he will not take part in negotiations until Israel agrees to leave Lebanon. He also wants a freeze on Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

Washington's efforts to save the Reagan plan have been given greater urgency by the meeting in Amman today between King Hussein and Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The King wants an understanding with the PLO before starting peace talks.

There is little optimism among Jordanian officials that today's talks will lead to Jordan agreeing to enter negotiations. Over the past month they have expressed increasing frustration at President Reagan's inability to extract any concessions from Israel.

Meanwhile King Hassan of Morocco is arranging a special meeting of 22 members of the Arab League, excluding Egypt, to be held in Fez on April 16-17. If any agreement or understanding does emerge from Mr Arafat's talks with King Hussein, the Fez summit is likely to ratify their decision.

Officials in Amman say that the PLO is working on its own peace formula which is likely to include elements of President Reagan's proposals. It might include an expression of willingness to recognise Israel in a bid to gain support from the U.S.

Despite the talks in Amman and the proposed Arab summit, diplomats in the Middle East are pessimistic about the chances of the Reagan peace plan achieving anything. The original deadline for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon given by President Reagan to King Hussein has long passed. There is also no sign of the Israeli Government being prepared to freeze the settlement programme.

Once the U.S. Presidential campaign gets underway later this year Israel and the Arab states are convinced that the White House will be unable to exert any political pressure on Israel to modify its policies.

Fraser board rejects Harrods plan

BY JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE of Fraser directors have rejected a plan by Lonrho to float off Harrods of Knightsbridge, its major department store, in a demerger scheme.

The stage is now set for another public confrontation between House of Fraser and Lonrho, the group's largest shareholder, which has been locked in a long-running battle for influence within the stores group.

After a two-and-a-half-hour board meeting on Thursday, attended by two directors of Lonrho, which has two seats on the Fraser board, House of Fraser said that the board, with the exception of the two Lonrho non-executive directors, "has concluded that the demerger of Harrods would materially harm the interests of shareholders, the company and its employees."

Mr Paul Spicer, one of the Lonrho directors present at the board meeting, said afterwards that it was "amicable." He added: "there was plenty of lively debate. I can't think of anyone who was impolite. The only thing was—we totally disagreed."

Professor Roland Smith, chairman of House of Fraser, will be spending a letter to shareholders shortly reporting on the reasons for the board's decision. An extraordinary general meeting will be convened for early May to consider the board's recommendation to vote in favour of a resolution designed to gain shareholders' support for the decision.

The resolution which will be put to a vote of House of Fraser shareholders reads: "that this meeting accepts the recommendation of the board of directors to shareholders that Harrods should remain within the House of Fraser group and expresses confidence in the board."

Mr George Willoughby, finance director of House of Fraser, said that the report to shareholders will be "reasonably full." He added: "the vast majority of our shareholders are small. We have to give them something they understand and at the same time satisfy the small number of very large professional institutional shareholders."

Lonrho holds 29.99 per cent of House of Fraser's shares and in the past has been supported by shares held by family trusts of Sir Hugh Fraser, the deposed chairman of the Fraser group. Those trusts represent around 3 per cent of the total equity.

Pension funds, insurance companies, investment trusts and other funds are reckoned to hold around two-thirds of the equity not owned by Lonrho or the Fraser trusts.

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Reagan calls for end to N-arms freeze protests

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan is continuing to send out mixed signals on arms control with a major speech in Los Angeles on Thursday and a series of briefings by Mr George Schultz, the U.S. Secretary of State, and other senior officials.

Three weeks ago, Mr Reagan denounced the Soviet Union as "the focus of evil in the world," while calling on Moscow to join the U.S. in sweeping nuclear arms reductions.

The President pointed out in his speech that he had "launched the most comprehensive programme of arms control initiatives ever undertaken," and explained that the Soviet Union could only be expected to bargain seriously if it was convinced of the allies "patience, determination and, above all, national unity."

He warned that if the nuclear freeze movement persisted in dividing U.S. public opinion, the Soviet Union would only dig in its heels in the hope that domestic political pressures would prevent the U.S. from matching Soviet nuclear capabilities.

[The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda yesterday dismissed the new arms control proposal announced by President Reagan on Wednesday as propaganda, Reuter reports from Moscow.

Mr Reagan proposed an interim agreement on intermediate range nuclear missiles in Europe under which the numbers of warheads on both sides would be equally balanced at levels significantly below the 572 that the U.S. plans to deploy in cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

Pravda said the Soviet Union could not accept the deployment of any U.S. missiles in Western Europe. Mr Reagan's call for an interim agreement in the nuclear missile talks in Geneva was not intended to achieve an accord but aimed at "blowing dust in people's eyes," Pravda said.

Mr Andrei Gromyko, is Soviet Foreign Minister, is expected to give the Kremlin's definitive response today.]

Mr Shultz admitted, however, that relations between Washington and Moscow are "tense" and that a meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, "does not seem to be in the cards."

According to some White House officials, relations had so deteriorated that Moscow nearly replaced Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, its ambassador to Washington, in February because of its frustration with the U.S. After a slight improvement in relations for a few weeks, the tension reached a new climax early in March, after Mr Reagan's "focus of evil" speech.

Mr Dobrynin, the ambassador for 21 years, has won considerable respect and trust in Washington and his withdrawal would have signalled an almost total breakdown in serious negotiations between the two sides. Administration officials said Mr Shultz had met Mr Dobrynin several times in February and March to assure him that the U.S. was serious about establishing better relations.

However, Mr Shultz told reporters that the tension was a matter of "substance, rather than tone." If the substance could be improved by serious progress on arms control, the tone of the relationship would follow.

Pravda said the Soviet Union could not accept the deployment

U.S. jobless rate falls

WASHINGTON — The U.S. civilian unemployment rate declined to 10.3 per cent in March, only the second such decline since the economy plunged into a deep recession in the summer of 1981, the Government reported yesterday.

The 0.1 percentage point decline in unemployment followed two months of standstill in the jobless figure. But nearly 11.4m people remain out of work.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics also reported that the number of people forced to accept part-time work last month for lack of anything better fell by nearly 500,000 to 6.2m.

AP

New row with Europe feared over Soviet trade

By Christian Tyler

THE ROW between the U.S. and her West European allies over trade with the Eastern bloc could be sparked off again by new legislative proposals being drafted in the White House.

According to British officials recently returned from Washington, the Administration is seeking the power to slap a total import ban on the goods of companies outside the U.S. that ignore export control orders issued by the President for reasons of national security.

This sequel to the Siberian gas pipeline controversy is seen as a serious rebuff for British and EEC efforts to soften existing U.S. trade legislation.

The U.S. move seems to be aimed partly at countries seen to be lax in applying the regulations about the export of "strategic" goods or technology to Warsaw Pact countries.

The list of such goods is at present being revised as part of the process of patching up U.S.-West European relations after the pipeline row.

British and other EEC Ministers are likely to make a formal protest about the latest U.S. plan. Mr Peter Rees, UK Trade Minister, has expressed his own deep unhappiness with the plan in recent talks with Mr Malcolm Baldrige U.S. Commerce Secretary, and Mr William Brock, the U.S. Trade Representative.

The Europeans will argue that the proposed sanction would be a clear breach of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) and that the solution should be found by diplomatic means not by unilateral trade sanctions.

Some concession to West European feeling may, however, be made in another part of the Bill being drafted for Congress to renew the Export Administration Act of 1979.

It appears the U.S. Government is ready to end the retroactive application of orders against overseas companies with contracts that are declared to be against U.S. interests.

That would mean that in future a period of grace would be given so that existing commitments could be honoured: a period of 270 days has been mentioned.

Reuter adds from Washington: The U.S. yesterday ended special duty-free import status on some $900m (£620m) worth of goods from developing countries.

Mr Brock said that the annual review of the preferential trade treatment given to developing countries showed that sales of many products no longer needed help to be competitive with products imported from developed countries.

Support for Zambia

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia yesterday won strong backing for his country's economic reform programme from Mr Peter McPherson, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Reuter reports from Washington. Zambia's currency devaluation and government incentives have increased agricultural production, he said. The U.S. Government might ask Congress for more than the $29m in economic aid already requested.

SOUTH AFRICA MOVE ON NEW CONSTITUTION

Coloureds condemn whites-only referendum

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

LEADERS OF South Africa's Coloured and Asian communities have strongly condemned the Government's decision to call a whites-only referendum on its proposals for a new constitution.

Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, unexpectedly announced on Wednesday that a referendum will be held after Parliament has approved the new constitution, details of which will be published shortly after the Easter recess. October and November are being mentioned as the most likely months for the poll.

In terms of the new plan, Coloureds and Asians will be given limited political rights in a racially-segregated, tricameral Parliament, but whites will retain overall control through an elaborate veto mechanism and a strong executive president.

Mr Alan Hendrickse, leader of the Coloured Labour Party, which has agreed to participate in implementing the new constitution, said the Government has a "moral obligation" to test Coloured and Asian opinion if it holds a referendum among whites.

Despite right-wing opposition, the Government will probably have little trouble winning a mandate from the white electorate. Many moderate left-wing opponents of the National Party are likely to view the new constitution at least as a step in the right direction.

The Coloured and Asian communities are deeply divided on the issue, however. Estimates of support for the changes among Coloureds range from a mere 20 per cent to about half.

Mr Hendrickse and his supporters are understood to be under strong pressure to reverse their stance. The Labour Party decision to co-operate with the Government has already led to a walkout by several of the party's senior office bearers.

Mr Botha's sudden decision to call a referendum appears to be an attempt to spike the guns of far-right opposition parties during forthcoming by-election campaigns in a number of ultra-conservative, rural strongholds.

● South Africa's 1983-84 budget is based on optimistic assumptions regarding tax revenues and the ability to contain government spending, Dr Joop De Loor, director-General of Finance, told a post-budget seminar.

The budget, presented to parliament on Wednesday, provides for a 10.3 per cent increase in government spending, an 8.3 per cent rise in gold mine tax payments and a similar increase in non-mining company taxes, despite the prospect of a negative growth rate in the South African economy and falling company profits this year.

Few significant tax changes were announced and Mr Horwood appears to be waiting for a lead from the gold price before considering radical changes in fiscal and monetary policies.

More price rises in France

By Paul Betts in Paris

APRIL FOOLS' DAY was no laughing matter for the French. Utility tariffs, telephone rates, rail fare and the price of the "baguette"—France's famous long thin loaf of broad—all rose yesterday as part of the Government's new economic austerity programme.

The baguette cost 10 centimes more as from yesterday, while gas and electricity rates increased by 8 per cent. The 8 per cent increase will add FFr 500m (£68.8m) to the electric utility's income this year and an additional FFr 250m to the gas utility's.

Telephone rates also went up with the basic tax on all telephone communications increasing by 5 centimes to 60 centimes per call.

Rail fares went up by 8 per cent, while motorway tolls will also increase by a similar percentage this month.

Spirits in France also cost more as from yesterday with the price of the average bottle of whisky going up by FFr 10. Cigarette prices are due to increase this summer.

French motorists will not benefit from the drop in international oil prices because the Government has decided to maintain petrol and home fuel prices at their March level in coming months.

This will be done by the introduction of a levy to keep petrol and fuel prices steady despite falling crude oil prices. This levy is expected to raise about FFr 1bn in additional revenues for the state.

As the price increases went into effect, M Pierre Mauroy continued his consultations with business and trade union leaders on the Government's austerity package unveiled last Friday.

While controversy continues to surround the package—especially the foreign exchange restrictions for tourists—M Mauroy said in an interview in L'Express that France could only have a fully-fledged Socialist policy if the other European countries also conducted Socialist policies.

His remarks were intended as an apparent answer to left-wing critics of the Government's tough measures.

M Mauroy yesterday saw the heads of the oro-Socialist CFTC labour confederation and of the pro-Communist CGT labour confederation.

Although the unions have claimed they were not properly consulted by the Government before the measures were announced, M Jacques Delors, Finance and Budget Minister, and the architect of the package, is understood to have held private talks with the Socialist parties.

Former Rumasa chairman begins legal action to regain companies

BY DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

THE LEGAL battle between the old and new owners of Rumasa, the controversial holding group expropriated by the Spanish Government five weeks ago, has now been engaged.

In his first legal move against the Government, the former chairman and chief shareholder, Sr Jose Maria Ruiz-Mateos, has lodged a formal demand at the Economy and Finance Ministry for return of his property.

The document, presented by a notary public just before the Easter holiday, is addressed to Sr Javier Moral, Director of State Patrimony, whose department is now the titular owner of Rumasa.

It claims that expropriation is a "violation of fundamental constitutional rights," and calls on Sr Moral and the new administrators to refrain from interfering in management and to provide detailed information relating to the group.

It asserts that the Government's decision to call meetings of shareholders of the expropriated companies is null and void.

Rumasa administrators have, meanwhile, taken their first steps towards retrieving foreign assets held by the intermediary units abroad, and largely financed from Rumasa's banking interests.

After private and open High Court hearings in London they have reached agreement with the British holding unit Multinvest (UK) for shares of the Augustus Barnett wine chain to be deposited at the London branch of Banco de Jerez, one of the expropriated Rumasa banks, as a guarantee for past and future loans.

A further hearing is scheduled in May, after temporary orders allowing seizure of documents at Multinvest and preventing disposal of assets.

The new administrators have also moved to secure shares of Banco del Plata, a Uruguay bank controlled by another holding unit, the Panama-based Inversora Iberoamericana.

IMF agrees credit for Turkey

BY METIN MUNIR IN ISTANBUL

TURKEY and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have agreed a one-year stand-by arrangement for an amount equivalent to SDR 225m (£164.25m), to go into effect in June.

The agreement confirms that the Turkish Government continues to be committed to the successful economic stabilisation started in 1980. This programme was supported by western governments and banks as well as the Fund, which extended to Turkey a loan equivalent to SDR 1,250m under a three-year arrangement. This is to expire in June.

The life of the new arrangement is shorter because the government in Ankara does not want to bind the hands of the new government which will be formed after general elections are held. They are expected to take place, at the latest in spring next year and thus bring an end to military rule.

In another development, the Finance Ministry has won approval from the Consultative Assembly (a legislative body appointed by the military) to issue a decree with the weight of law with a view to rationalisation of banking, Mr Adnan Baser Kafaoglu, the Finance Minister, will meet leading Turkish bankers next week to discuss the new measures, which will become an amendment to the Banking Act.

The precise form of the amendment, and how radical it will be, is not known. It is not expected, however, to lead to the nationalisation of any bank or to discriminate against foreign banks in Turkey. The amendment is expected to raise capital requirements and increase the control of the Central Bank over the commercial banks.

● Turkey, a member of Nato, says it has settled a prickly dispute with the Soviet Union and other eastern bloc states about transit fees of merchant shipping between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, AP reports from Ankara. Turkey multiplied the fees tenfold for passage through the Bosporus and Dardanelles straits. Now a new rate only 2½ times the old has been agreed.

W. German metalworkers agree to 3.2% pay rise

BY STEWART FLEMING IN FRANKFURT

WEST GERMANY'S largest trade union, the 2.5m-strong IG Metall, has agreed in regional talks to accept 3.2 per cent wage increase, a move which is expected to form the basis of a national settlement of this year's wage round.

The union, which traditionally sets the pace in the Federal Republic's annual wage negotiations, has this year seen its leadership challenged by the smaller chemical industry union which has 660,000 members.

In the wake of a similar settlement in the chemical industry, IG Metall officials have provisionally accepted a new 12-month contract providing for a 3.2 per cent wage rise in talks in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Union officials and employers are suggesting, however, that the local settlement is likely to form the basis of a national agreement.

If so, it suggests that for the third consecutive year, the union's labour force will be accepting a wage rise which may not maintain the current level of real earnings.

The union has set as its goal at the opening of talks two months ago an agreement which would match inflation and so protect real earnings.

Although inflation is falling and is currently running at about the 3.5 per cent mark, for the year as a whole, an inflation rate significantly below this level is not anticipated.

Solidarity's leaders call for amnesty

By Christopher Bobinski in Warsaw

THE SOLIDARITY movement's underground leadership has demanded an amnesty for political prisoners to mark the Pope's visit to Poland in June and will stage protests against the authorities while he is in the country.

The five-man national committee has also called on workers abroad to demonstrate support for Solidarity on May Day.

The clandestine Radio Solidarity broadcast a four-minute programme defending the union's policies on Thursday evening.

Prime rate reduced in Italy

Italian banks reduced their prime rate by half a percentage point to 19.5 per cent yesterday, James Buxton reports from Rome. The drop is the second this year and comes in response to urgent requests from the Government and Industry.

Earlier this year the Italian Banking Association agreed to let member banks set their own rates instead of adhering to the rate set by the association, and Banca Nazionale del Lavoro cut its prime to 19.5 per cent about a month ahead of the others. Banco di Roma and Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino have cut to 18 per cent their rates on export finance.

Slick threatens Qatar

Qatar yesterday had spotter teams in place around its coast as oil from two wells wrecked in the Iran-Iraq war, was reported close inshore, Mary Frings reports from Bahrain. The threat to Bahrain seems temporarily to have receded, but the Norwuz oilfield, which is within the war zone, has still not been declared a safe area for repairing the leaking wells.

Thai border fire

Vietnamese and Thai forces exchanged artillery fire for several hours across the Thai-land-Kampuchea frontier yesterday, Reuter reports from Bangkok.

Romania go-ahead

The International Monetary Fund has given Romania the go-ahead in principle to draw on the remaining $660m (£448.9m) portion of its stand-by loan, available until mid-1984, writes David Buchan. But the fund expects Romania to make early progress in settling outstanding debts, including arrears to western companies and rescheduling with the West German government.

Japanese bonds

Japanese banks will soon start selling national bonds over the counter for the first time since 1945 in an effort to finance part of the national budget, the finance ministry said yesterday, Reuter reports from Tokyo.

Computer advance

NEC, a leading Japanese semiconductor maker, said it has developed a new technique to expand memory capacity in computers, so that units may store as much as 4,000 times the amount of information they current methods allow, AP reports from Tokyo. The company said 1bn bits of information can be stored in a semi-conductor chip 1 cm square through the new Bloch Line Memory method.

Jimmy Burns in Buenos Aires finds mixed feelings about the Falklands one year after the invasion

Argentina's dream of islands that won't go away

ON THE first anniversary of the invasion of the Falkland Islands, Argentines do not know whether to laugh or cry, fight the British or fight each other. April 2 1983 is a day of profoundly mixed emotions—a crisis of identity on a national scale.

There can perhaps be no better expression of this than the equivocal attitude of Argentina's military rulers towards the date. The junta has decided that the "recovery of the Malvinas" (as the Argentines call them) should not be officially commemorated on April 2 but on April 4, and that the day should be marked not by massive demonstrations but by a national holiday and a few Masses in churches up and down the country.

The official reason is that today is Holy Saturday, traditionally a day of recollection in Catholic countries. It would thus be inappropriate, it is claimed, to stage ceremonies, religious or otherwise, on a day when the Lord is remembered lying in his tomb.

The excuse is believed by few Argentines, not even by those supposed to be responsible for it. "I agree it's an insult to all those poor boys who died in the war, but it's not under my control—the junta has decided," a distraught official at the Interior Ministry commented, in an attempt to reconcile the decision with the appearance of huge posters about the capital proclaiming in Spanish, "April 2: The Malvinas are Argentine."

In the last few days, the junta has been publicly defied by a general strike and countless demonstrations. Today, a vociferous group of war veterans will break the Holy hours by burning British and U.S. flags in public and issuing a statement highly critical of Argentina's military leadership.

They are likely to be joined by the youth movement of the two main opposition parties, the Radicals and the Peronists, who will be shouting their current popular slogans. These include "the firing squad for the generals who sold out the nation" and "it's going to end, the military dictatorship is going to end."

There are very different slogans to those which greeted Gen Leopoldo Galtieri when he walked out onto the balcony of the presidential palace one year ago this morning. Then there was public jubilation and a sense of national purpose. All this changed on June 14 when Argentines suddenly woke up from a propaganda-induced dream to the desolation of defeat.

Following the removal, without court marial, of Gen Galtieri, Adm Jorge Anaya, and Air Force Brig Basilio Lami Dozo, the members of the new junta promised a thorough investigation of the Falklands war, to satisfy the growing demand, inside and outside the military, for visible culprits of the national disaster.

ITALY is delaying delivery of about 200 torpedoes to the Argentine navy because Argentina is behind with payments, diplomatic sources said, Reuter reports from Buenos Aires. Argentina appeared to be up to date with payments for arms from other suppliers, including France, despite difficulties in repaying its $38.7bn (£26.3bn) external debt, they added.

The torpedoes, which can be launched from submarines, surface ships or helicopters, were ordered well before the Falklands conflict last year, the sources said. They formed part of a big re-equipment programme by the navy after Argentina and Chile came to the brink of war over the Beagle Channel dispute in 1978, they added.

Argentina was also thought to be buying from Israel 25-30 second-hand Skyhawk fighter-bombers to make up for losses of Skyhawks over the Falklands, the sources said. They added that Argentina was still short of helicopters, having lost 22 during the conflict.

One year after "Operación Rosario"—the code name for the April 2 invasion—Argentina is still waiting for its equivalent of the Franks Report. In the absence of an official explanation of events, officers have broken ranks, accusing their superiors and each other of everything that went wrong.

In addition to threatening the hierarchical cohesion of the armed forces, the Falklands war has also provoked bitter interservice rivalries. Each branch of the armed forces is convinced that it is the least to blame for the defeat.

The air force has dwelt on the inability of the ground troops to follow up the pilots' attacks on the British task force. The army has blamed the air force for not giving it adequate air cover and for bombing escort ships instead of troop carriers.

The navy, blamed by the other two services for an early withdrawal to port, has hit back by claiming the few successes of the war, for itself. Naval officers point out that their marines were the first to land on the islands in an impressively staged amphibious landing, and that their Exocet missiles nearly turned the tide of the war by knocking out HMS Sheffield.

There are officers from all three services who have had the courage to point to what might have been the root of the Argentine military failure—that the armed forces had devoted far too many years to politics and internal repression, and far too little time to the techniques of modern warfare.

As for the future, a fully-fledged attempt at military occupation can be virtually ruled out at this stage but one cannot ignore the possibility of a lunatic fringe staging an act of provocation against the islands. The air force is understood to have been toying in recent weeks with the idea of sending aircraft to the islands to trigger off a red alert.

Local diplomats, moreover, have not ruled out the possibility that the planned trip to the islands on April 16 by Argentine relatives of the war dead could turn out to be more political than humanitarian. The relatives might be used, as the scrap merchants on South Georgia were last year, to start a big diplomatic row about sovereignty over the islands.

It is one of the great paradoxes of Argentina that, in spite of its swelling economic problems, the Falklands are still prominent on the political stage.

Argentine society remains essentially militarist. The division between the armed forces and the civilians may be more apparent than real. Within the Peronist party, the current favourites to win the election promised for October, there appears to be little desire to forget that the founding leader, the late Juan Peron, was first and foremost a general and only second an elected President.

Military officers and the main political parties are still linked by their ingrained nationalist feelings, of which that about the Falklands remains the most poignant and easily exploitable symbol.

The parties hope that, once democracy is restored here, Mrs Margaret Thatcher might lose some of her reluctance to negotiate. They warn that continuing British intransigence would succeed only in stirring nationalist instincts and in providing the armed forces with the opportunity to recover their honour through a second attempt to recover the islands.

The extensive re-equipment during the last 12 months, concentrated on the weapons which did most damage to the British task force, suggests that unpredictable military thinking continues to prevail in Argentina.

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Severn barrage may be appraised

By Ray Dafter, Energy Editor

THE GOVERNMENT and private industry are likely to join forces to conduct a detailed appraisal of an electricity-generating tidal barrage across the Severn Estuary.

It is understood a study team including a number of civil engineering companies is being assembled within the Energy Department, and it is possible that the team will be asked to examine the feasibility of the barrage being built and operated by private enterprise.

The study is expected to cost over £10m. This would, however, be a tiny fraction of the cost of a barrage if it were to be constructed. Two years ago, a Government committee concluded after a £2.3m study that the cheapest barrage scheme would cost about £5.6bn in 1980 values. Such a barrage, built between Lavernock Point in South Wales and Brean Down in Somerset, would have an installed capacity of 7,200 MW, sufficient to meet about 6 per cent of present electricity demand in England and Wales.

A bigger project, involving a barrage between Minehead, Somerset, and Aberthaw, would more effectively harness the energy potential of the estuary and meet 10 per cent of the electricity demand, the committee concluded. But, it added, the cost of this project would be nearer £9bn.

The Government recognises the energy potential of the Severn Estuary, which is one of the most favourable sites for a tidal barrage in the world. However, Ministers and advisers are believed to be concerned about the large amount of money which would be absorbed by the project during a construction period lasting at least 10 years. This is one reason why they want private industry to be involved from now on.

The Government is also believed to be concerned that backing for a barrage appraisal might be construed by the public as a weakening of the Cabinet's commitment towards nuclear power.

Hope for growth in N. Sea projects

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

THE GOVERNMENT is hoping for a resurgence in North Sea development activity. Energy Department officials have told ministers that the offshore industry could soon be starting projects at the rate of eight fields a year.

The programme, involving investment of several billion pounds, contrasts sharply with the past three years during which only three major oil field projects have been sanctioned.

It is understood that officials and oil companies are discussing the possibility of starting 17 new field developments before the end of 1985. Some of these projects are being brought forward as a result of tax incentives introduced in the recent Budget.

The fields should help to prolong UK oil self-sufficiency into the 1990s as well as contribute to British Gas Corporation's dwindling supplies in the late 1980s.

The Energy Department is keeping details of the projects under wraps. It is thought that they are included in this list of potentially commercial fields under evaluation by oil companies:

- Oil discoveries—Marathon's North Brae, British Petroleum's South East Forties, Sun Oil's Balmoral, Hamilton Brothers' Duncan, BP's Andrew, Phillips Petroleum's T-block complex of reservoirs, Texaco's Sail, Hamilton/BP's Bruce, Shell's Eider, Chevron/BP's Columba, Britoil's Don, and Shell's Tern.
- Gas discoveries—Amoco's East Leman, Shell's West Leman, British Gas Corporation's Rough, Shell's South East Indefatigable, Shell/Amoco's Indefatigable, Conoco's Victor, Hamilton's Bunter prospects in quadrant 43, and Conoco's Valiant (formerly known as Broken Bank).

Some projects, like British Gas's redevelopment of the Rough field, are already proceeding even though the Government has yet to give formal authorisation. Some, like the North Brae and Balmoral oil projects and the East Leman and South East Indefatigable gas fields, are expected to be sanctioned soon. Others—like South East Forties, West Leman and Indefatigable—will be extensions of existing developments.

Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State for Energy, said the improved ordering prospects would be particularly welcomed by the offshore supply industry. He thought the contracts would help to secure jobs in equipment manufacturers and service companies. He warned, however, that there would still be a need for UK companies to look abroad for work.

The offshore supplies industry, which employs more than 100,000 people in the UK, will also have to provide a wider range of production equipment, according to Mr David Morrison, oil analyst with stock brokers Wood, Mackenzie. "There will be increasing pressure on oil companies to find more cost-efficient ways of developing their new fields," he said.

Mr Morrison expected many more fields to be exploited by means of floating production platforms and well systems installed on the seabed.

"At the same time I am sure that for safety's sake, a number of companies will return to the fixed platforms that they have come to love and know."

The Process Plant Association, which lobbied the Government for lower North Sea oil taxes, welcomed the prospect of improved orders and jobs in the supply industry. The association calculated that each tranche of orders worth £500m supports the jobs of 25,000 to 30,000 people in supply companies.

Coal stocks rise to half year's consumption

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

BRITAIN'S coal stocks rose by 11m tonnes in the year to the end of February, reaching a total of 52.1m tonnes—almost half the 1982 consumption of 111.2m tonnes—according to the Energy Department's latest monthly statistical bulletin.

The rise took place against the background of steeply plunging consumption. Between December 1982 and February 1983 coal production, at 31.7m tonnes, was 1.7 per cent higher than in the same period a year ago. But consumption, at 30.6m tonnes, was down by 7 per cent, or 2.3m tonnes.

In the period November 1982 to January 1983, coal consumption fell by 10.9 per cent. Consumption of petroleum fell by 8 per cent and natural gas by 4.6 per cent. But use of nuclear and hydro-electric power rose by 23.8 and 35.6 per cent respective

Provisional energy trade figures for the final quarter of last year showed that imports of all fuels fell by 20.2 per cent in quantity and by 18.7 per cent in value, while exports rose by 18.2 per cent and 24.1 per cent in volume and value respectively.

- The West is heading for a gas crisis on the scale of the oil crises of the 1970s according to a World Gas Survey published on Thursday by City analysts Grievson Grant and Co. The report, written by Mr Memdi Varzi, warns that, "By the 1990s, the expected switch away from oil to gas imports is likely to pose the same kind of problems which oil posed in the 1970s." And it notes that the "energy cold war" is rapidly swinging in Russia's favour.

The USSR is expected to overtake the U.S. as the world's largest gas producer by next year, and may almost double its output by the year 2,000. By that time, with the West needing more gas every year, Opec is expected to account for half the international trade in gas, the report predicts. Price and supply stability will be under threat, especially in the EEC countries, "unless the consuming nations take action to minimise their vulnerability."

Dorset Bidding Group confirms Wytch Farm talks

THE Dorset Bidding Group, led by Tricentrol, has confirmed it is to start discussions with British Gas to buy its 50 per cent share in the Wytch Farm oil field in Dorset.

Earlier this week Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, instructed a reluctant British Gas to sell its share in the oilfield to the group. In a brief statement the group confirmed it would enter discussions with British Gas, "to conclude a sale and purchase agreement for the acquisition of the British Gas Corporation's interest in Production Licence PL089, including Wytch Farm oil field."

The Dorset Bidding Group includes Tricentrol, Premier, Carless, Clyde and Goal. It is believed to have offered £200m to £260m for the stake in the field which British Gas has valued at £500m.

Another consortium interested in British Gas's Wytch Farm stake includes Rio Tinto Zinc, Charterhouse and Associated British Foods. British Petroleum, British Gas's partner in Wytch Farm, has an option to match any bid.

Robot supplier buys Remek

By Jason Crisp

REMEK, the British robotics company which went into receivership at the beginning of the year, has been bought by George P. Brown (Holdings), a supplier of large robot systems to the car industry.

It is to become part of VS Engineering, George P. Brown's main subsidiary.

Remek, which had sales of £800,000 last year, called in a receiver in January. Its 55 employers were made redundant.

Mr Geoffrey Brandon, managing director of George P. Brown, said 14 former Remek employees had been rehired, including Mr Roger Bidgood, founder and managing director. He said other former employees might be taken back.

VS Engineering is a large UK supplier of robot systems specialising in the car and domestic appliance industries.

It supplied systems for the production lines for the Ford Sierra, BL's Maestro and the Land Rover One Ten.

Remek's main product is a small, accurate robot arm which can replace a human arm in light operations such as assembly, machine loading and packaging. Remek's PAM robot cost £15,000.

When Remek went into receivership about 40 companies went to visit it and 12 made serious offers for the company.

Ailsa Investment Trust and Carreras Suparannuation Trustee have lost their investment of £560,000 which enabled Remek to complete a major capital reconstruction last summer.

By November it was back in trouble. A big order from the U.S. company Copperweld failed to come through although Remek had geared up production and taken on extra staff. It was also hit by the recession: a number of companies had been keen on the product but had to postpone orders.

Remek's difficulties attracted widespread attention as its troubles coincided with a strong British interest in robot technology from the U.S. and Japan. Several independent experts claimed Remek's technology was more advanced than that of most Japanese companies.

Late last year a number of British companies entering the robotics field set up ventures with Japanese companies, including GEC with Hitachi, Sykes with Dainichi Kiko and the 600 Group with Fujitsu Fanuc.

Mr Brandon said the company was keen to develop the potential of the smaller end of the robot market.

"We have great hopes for Remek in the future. British industry is beginning to take off with automation with the encouragement of government. I think the climate is right and there is a vast scope for robots," he said.

George P. Brown had a turnover last year of £17m. The British Technology Group has a 26 per cent stake in the company. Most of the remaining equity is owned by institutional investors.

Consortium to buy government computer design centre for £1m

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

A CONSORTIUM led by ICL, Britain's largest computer manufacturer, is to buy the Cambridge Computer Aided Design Centre from the Department of Industry for £1m.

The agreement in principle comes a year after the Government announced it was considering selling the centre—the largest research institution of its kind in the UK—to the private sector.

The other two companies in the consortium are SIA, an on-line computer services company owned by the French CISI computer group, and W. S. Atkins of Epsom, the engineering and management consultancy group.

Under the deal the consortium will pay £1m for the share capital and will receive an unspecified amount of Government support to help the transition from a Government-run research establishment to a commercial company.

Under a royalty agreement the Government will be repaid for the transitional funds and could receive an additional £4.5m over the next 10 years if revenue forecasts are met.

The centre brings in revenues of about £2m, against annual running costs of £4m.

ICL and its partners have undertaken to develop CAD/CAM techniques in the UK and maintain employmant at the centre for the foreseeable future.

ICL was always the favourite to take over the centre, although it was opposed by a rival consortium which included Prime Computer of the U.S., the mini-computer manufacturer which has marketing rights to a number of products developed at the centre.

Since the centre was set up in 1968 ICL has provided the bulk of the staff, apart from a small number of DoI officials. The 140 ICL employees will be offered jobs with the new company to be called CAD Centre.

The centre is best known for its software—often produced with industrial partners—for mechanical and electrical draughting.

Mr Fred Chiles, sales and marketing manager, said earlier this year that a business plan had been drawn up to make the centre financially self-sufficient within two years.

Hovercraft 'could have cut risks in Falklands'

BY ANDREW FISHER

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to ignore hovercraft for last year's military landings on the Flanklands is sharply criticised in the latest Jane's Surface Skimmers yearbook, which said risks to troops would have been greatly minimised. It also called on the Government to give strong support to the industry to help it maintain its lead over competition from abroad.

Other countries, some with smaller navies, had seen hovercraft's potential for amphibious assault landing, wrote Mr Roy McLeavy, editor, in the foreword to Jane's Surface Skimmers, Hovercraft and Hydrofoils, published on Thursday.

"Hovercraft could have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Falkland Islands' campaign. But when the time came, no suitable craft were available," he said.

"The last of the service's trials units, the Naval Hovercraft Trials' Unit, was on the point of closure due to Government lack of interest." After hundreds of tests by UK forces over 20 years, "it was one of the ironies of the Falklands Islands' campaign that no hovercraft were employed."

Conventional landing craft, differing little from those used in World War II, offered easy targets because of their slow speed, one at least being sunk by a bomb dropped by a Skyhawk.

Mr McLeavy said the Royal Marines had successfully completed over 2,000 hours of operations with an SR.N6 hovercraft in and around the Falklands in 1968-72.

The craft was reported to have increased mobility and flexibility of the garrison forces. "But alone among the defence departments of the major powers, the UK Ministry of Defence conspicuously ignored the hovercraft's formidable capabilities."

No reference to the Falklands' hovercraft trials had been made in the Franks Report on the events leading up to the conflict with Argentina, he said.

"Troops who found themselves moving ashore at a snail's pace seeking a suitable landing site while under constant threat of first from shore defences and air attack must have found it inexplicable why it is that the Soviet and U.S. navies (which along with other smaller navies) have recognised the potential of hovercraft in the amphibious assault landing role, while the UK Ministry of Defence ostensibly remains unconvinced."

Mr McLeavy said awareness of the hovercraft's commercial and military benefits was growing throughout the world. Hovercraft export orders with UK companies at the start of 1983 totalled £300m.

Since its inception 23 years ago, the industry had received barely £20m in government aid, he added.

Jane's Surface Skimmers 1983. Sixteenth edition. Jane's Publishing Company, London. Price £42.50.

Spending on student grants up

By Ken Ferris

LOCAL AUTHORITY spending on student grants in England and Wales increased by £63.3m in 1980-81 to £451m, according to figures published by the Department of Education and Science.

The department's Statistical Bulletin also shows that the local authority contribution to student fees was up by £66.7m in 1980-81 to £301.7m.

The maximum level of maintenance grant for individual students increased by over 14 per cent in 1980-81. This took the rate for a student living in London to £1,695 and for students in other parts of England and Wales to £1,430 for the academic year.

The number of mandatory awards paid out to students in higher education increased by four per cent. Discretionary awards (paid to students not entitled to receive a mandatory award) fell by 4 per cent.

"The total number of awards for higher education rose from 386,200 to 395,768 in 1980-81 in spite of the fall in discretionary awards and a four per cent reduction in the number of post-graduate awards made by research councils and the department.

The bulletin highlights the fact that 66 per cent of students had parents who were assessed as having to contribute to the maintenance element of the grant. However, four-fifths of the cost was met by the local authorities, who received a 90 per cent grant from central government.

Scottish proposal on BSC link

BY MARK MEREDITH, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE Scottish Council for Development and Industry, an independent industrial lobby organisation, has proposed to the Government that the Port Talbot steel works in Wales would be better suited for a link-up with a U.S. steelworks than the Ravenscraig steel mill in Scotland.

The suggestion comes as the Government considers a proposal from Mr Ian MacGregor, the chairman of British Steel, that semi-finished steel slabs from Ravenscraig be shipped to U.S. Steel for finishing under a consortium to be formed. The plan would mean an end to finished steel making at Ravenscraig and 2,000 job losses.

A letter from Mr Peter Balfour, the chairman of the Scottish Council which represents industry, the trade unions and public sector, sent to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Industry Secretary, asked for assurances that the Government policy on steel announced last December would be maintained.

The Government at the time said all five steel mills should be kept open to allow for an improvement in the market.

Mr Balfour added that the council could not accept the logic that Ravenscraig must be a dedicated supplier — a reference to the U.S. link.

"The outstanding candidate would be Port Talbot where the strip mill is in any case due for replacement at a cost approaching £200m. Port Talbot has the additional attraction of being located on the dockside.

"The capital cost of making Ravenscraig the dedicated supplier would be a bad bargain for the corporation and the country at large."

Mr Hamish Morrison, the chief executive of the council, said it was not the objective to sell Port Talbot short to enhance Ravenscraig, but that it did not make sense shutting the more modern of the two finishing works.

- Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, has replied to an accusation that he had misled the House of Commons over the "transfer fee" to be paid for the services of Mr Ian MacGregor as National Coal Board chairman. He stressed that no part of the £1.5m compensation would be paid to Mr MacGregor.

Mr John Smith, opposition energy spokesman, issued a letter last Wednesday demanding that Mr Lawson clarify the circumstances surrounding the payment.

Mr Lawson, in a letter to Mr Smith, also made public, said he had stated that Mr MacGregor as a limited partner in Lazard Frères, New York, would not be entitled to any share of the fee of £1.5m.

GKN to close Sheepbridge alloy foundry

BY IAN RODGER

THE TWO British producers of high alloy vertically spun steel castings—Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds and Johnson and Firth Brown—have agreed on a rationalisation scheme, subject to the approval of the Office of Fair Trading.

Under the plan, GKN will close its Sheepbridge foundry, resulting in the loss of 192 jobs. GKN will, however, take a 25 per cent stake in the Firth Vickers Foundry subsidiary of JFB and will receive an undisclosed amount in compensation from JFB.

The Government is also contributing to the costs of the Sheepbridge mill closure.

High alloy spun castings are used in making tubes for use in aerospace applications and in petrochemical industries.

Worldwide steel output falls by 14.3%

CRUDE STEEL production in the 29 countries which report output to the International Iron and Steel Institute was 29.3m tonnes in February, down 14.3 per cent from February, 1982 but virtually unchanged from January, 1983.

The 29 reporting countries account for about 97 per cent of world production, excluding the USSR and other East bloc countries, China and North Korea.

Despite some recent improvement, steel production in the U.S., at 5.2m tonnes, was 20.2 per cent below output in February, 1982.

Output in the EEC countries was down 17.6 per cent to 8.5m tonnes, reflecting declining production.

Japan's production, at 7.1m tonnes, than in February, 1982.

Only six of the 29 countries showed increases: Taiwan, up 47.3 per cent to 360,000 tonnes, Chile up 35.7 per cent to 38,000 tonnes, Turkey up 32.5 per cent to 285,000 tonnes, South Korea up 7.8 per cent to 937,000 tonnes, Argentina up 6.4 per cent to 234,000 tonnes and Portugal up 4.1 per cent to 51,000 tonnes.

Scheme in Brixton may bring jobs

By Lisa Wood

SOME 300 to 400 jobs may result in Brixton, South London from a £2.9m scheme finalised last week by BAT Industries and Lambeth Council.

The project involves the conversion of the Bon Marche department store, empty since 1981, into a Brixton Enterprise Centre, which will provide about 100 small workshops, office and retailing space.

One of the first tenants could be Argos Distributors, the catalogue chain, owned by BAT, which is doing a feasibility study on the site.

The aim of the centre is to help people start their own businesses. Workshops will be rented out on monthly licences and management advice will be available.

BAT has put up the purchase price, of just under £1m and the council has bought a lease for about £650,000. Lambeth Council has contributed £140,000 towards the estimated £1.7m conversion costs and granted a sub-lease to the Brixton Enterprise Centre, formed by BAT Industries Small Businesses.

The centre will be administered by a specially formed company. The council will have the right to appoint three of the directors.

Ms Jo Sinclair, head of the economic activity and employment committee of Lambeth Council, described the project as a "major step forward in the creation of jobs in Lambeth."

Conversion on the 94,000 sq ft building on Brixton's High Street will start shortly, with units being let in phases. The first lets are expected in 1984.

Enterprise workshops started by BAT in Toxteth, Liverpool, have attracted 30 small companies, most of them new.

GLC to seek employee details from suppliers

By Gareth Griffiths

COMPANIES which supply or do work for the Greater London Council will have to give a breakdown of the race and sex composition of their workforces if they want to stay on the authority's list of approved contractors.

Building contractors will also have to submit copies of their health and safety policies.

The GLC spends more than £250m annually and has about 20,000 contractors and suppliers on its approved list.

A meeting of the GLC's industry and employment and legal and general committees gave the go-ahead for the policy on Thursday. The decision has to be ratified by the full council but this is almost certain.

A Contracts Compliance Unit, costing about £300,000 a year, is to be set up by the GLC to monitor the scheme.

Government revises BA's financial targets to 1984

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT has set British Airways a revised financial target of a 5¾ per cent average annual return on net assets during 1982-83 and 1983-84.

This compares with the 6 per cent target set for 1979-80 to 1981-82. In none of those years did the airline achieve the target, the results being 0.4 per cent in 1979-80, minus 9.7 per cent in 1980-81 and minus 5 per cent in 1981-82.

In the 1981-82 financial year, the airline incurred a loss of £544m, although this figure included certain "extraordinary charges" including a writing down of aircraft and property assets by £208m and a £199m provision for voluntary redundancies.

The airline is understood to have earned a profit during the 1982-83 financial year. The results are not expected to be announced for two or three months.

Announcing the target, Mr Iain Sproat, Under-secretary of State for Trade, said the current cost profit used in measuring the targets would be assessed before taking into account interest payments and profits or losses on asset disposals.

Mr Sproat said the Government was urging the airline to make progress in eliminating the £237m excess of liabilities over assets revealed in the balance sheet for the year to end-March 1982.

- The British Airports Authority's seven airports handled 2.5m passengers in February, a 3 per cent decrease on the same month last year. As in January, part of this fall was due to the loss of extra domestic traffic carried last year during the series of rail strikes, the BAA reported.

Cargo activity in February was again depressed but the 0.6 per cent overall drop was an improvement on recent rates of decline, the authority said.

Action on books ban ruled out

BY KEVIN BROWN

THE GOVERNMENT has for the time being ruled out any retaliation against the refusal by the U.S. Congress to allow European printing companies open access to the American book market.

The ban was condemned in the House of Commons on Thursday by Dr Gerard Vaughan, the Minister of State for Trade, as a breach of U.S. obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

But he warned that retaliatory measures urged by the printing industry would create a trade conflict in neither country's interests.

"The implications of setting up a trade barrier of this sort could do more harm than good," he said.

The U.S. ban on imported literature applies to work by American authors, which is denied copyright protection under a clause of the Copyright Act, unless it is printed in the U.S.

The clause was described by Mr Chris Patten, the Conservative MP for Bath, as an ingenious way of keeping British manufacturer's out of the U.S. market. The clause affects largely British printing companies because of the common language.

Opening a debate on the issue, Mr Patten complained that the U.S. Congress had overridden a presidential veto to retain the clause after its intended expiry in 1982.

The clause was illegal under the Gatt as it included special discrimination in favour of Canada, because its retention made it technically a new restraint on trade, and because it broke a U.S. promise to relax controls made during the Tokyo Round.

"I believe that we need to put as much pressure as we possibly can on the U.S. Government to ensure that the Congress is aware that there will be retaliation against U.S. exporters and demands for further remedies under the Gatt unless the manufacturing clause is dropped," he said.

Dr Vaughan said it was "particularly galling to have to endure this totaly out-of-date and artificial trade barrier."

The Government was as determined as the industry to have the clause scrapped, and to obtain compensation for printing companies through the Gatt.

He criticised the U.S. Government for claiming simultaneously that the clause had a minimal effect on the European industry, and that dropping it would cost 370,000 U.S. jobs.

Labour journal attacks party campaign document

BY JOHN HUNT

THERE ARE already signs that Labour's campaign document, New Hope for Britain, published earlier this week, is running into trouble with the far left of the party.

The document, intended to provide a platform on which the party can fight a united general election campaign, has come under strong criticism from Mr Ken Livingston, Leader of the GLC, and Mr Ted Knight, Labour councillor for Lambeth, in the latest issue of Labour Herald.

The joint editors of the weekly journal accuse the document of "hedging and fudging" Labour Party policies.

The are particularly critical of the passage which commits a Labour government to a non-nuclear defence policy but which also says that this may take time to accomplish.

They complain that the proposals for restructuring the economy are weak and that the idea of a national economic assessment "is not much more than a re-run of the old social contract."

They are particularly suspicious about the way in which it is proposed that a Labour government should fulfil some commitments immediately in an emergency programme but put off others to be fulfilled at a later stage of a future Labour administration. This they say has "ominous overtones" and could mean the long-term deferment of some crucial commitments.

Reforms planned in refugee rules

BY KEVIN BROWN

THE GOVERNMENT is to go some way to mollifying backbench Conservative disquiet over the deportation to Romania of Mr Stancu Papasiou by changing the rules for illegal immigrants claiming refugee status.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Office Minister who made the decision to deport Mr Papasiou, told the Commons on Thursday that he was convinced the right decision had been taken. But there was "a strong case" for reform.

Applications for political asylum or refugee status in future will be notified to the U.K. Immigration Advisory Service's refugee counsellors unless an MP has already intervened.

Mr Waddington said he would consider whether associations such as the British Romanian Association, which learned of Mr Papasiou's case only by accident, should be kept in touch.

His statement marks a change of tack by the Home Office in the face of mounting criticism in the media and among Tory back-benchers, culminating in the debate initiated by Sir Bernard Braine, the MP for South East Essex, on Thursday.

Sir Bernard, the leading back-bench critic of the deportation, said Mr Papasiou was not properly interviewed by Romanian speaking interpreters, and that the Home Office ignored evidence that he was a political refugee and not simply a fugitive from hard work.

Sir Bernard made clear that Conservative critics of the deportation were far from satisfied with the defence in a Lords' debate by Lord Elton, the Home Office Under-Secretary.

Lorth Bethel, the Conservative peer who raised tha issue in the Lords, had seen the Home Office report making it plain that Mr Papasiou's objection to life in Romania was that communism was unacceptable, he said.

"That, I suggest, makes it quite clear that he was a political refugee."

Sir Bernard said the Home Office should have used its discretionary power to delay the deportation while a third country was found to take Mr Papasiou.

Mr Waddington attacked the "strident" coverage of the case by the Press, and dismissed reports that Mr Papasiou was frogmarched on to the aircraft returning him to Romania

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UK NEWS

LABOUR

Redundancy rate down since autumn

BY MAX WILKINSON, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNDERLYING total of unemployment including school-leavers rose by 25,000 in March to 3.026.000. However, redundancies reported in January and February were at a rate lower than that reported in the autumn and had fallen to the level of a year earlier.

Redundaocies reported in January were 29.000 and the provisional estimate for February was 28,000. This compared with an average of 37,000 during the last threc months of last year.

It is officially estimated that the unemployment schemes announced in the Budget will have the effect of taking about 132,000 people off the register this year.

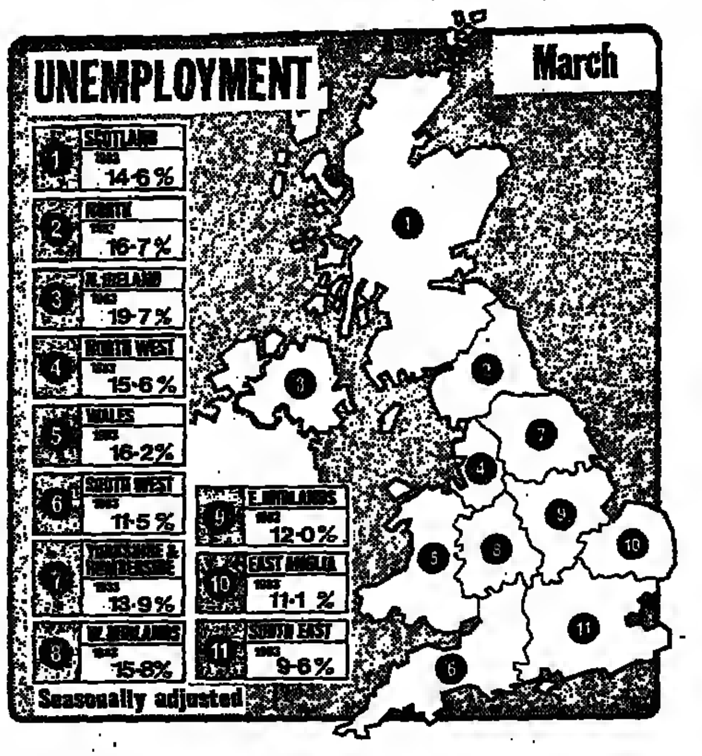
About 90,000 men between the ages of 60 and 65 will be affected by the scheme to protect their eventual pension rights, even though they do not regiater for work during the period. Most of these men, who are earning below the threshold for benefit entitlements, are expected to leave the register in May.

In addition, an extension was announced of the scheme by which older men over 60 who have been unable to find work may leave the register and accept the higher rate of supplementary benefit. In future such older men will not have to be unemployed for a year to qualify.

The effect is expected to be a reduction of the unemployment total by 42,000. About two-thirds of this reduction is likely to affect the July unemployment total

The overall total of unemployed is likely to rise in April as Easter school leavers come on to tha register.

Figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development show that in January 13.3 par cent of the UK workforce was unemployed. This compares with a February total of 14.1 per cent in Belgium, 16.6 per cent in Spain 13 per cent in the Netherlands, 9 per cent in Italy, 8 per cent in France, 7 per cent in West Germany, 10.2 per cent in the U.S. and 2.7 per cent in Japan.



Metal Box to close another factory

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

METAL BOX, whose UK workforce has fallen from 33,000 to 24,000 in the past three years, marked the last day of its financial year on Thursday with the announcement of another factory closure and the loss of 230 jobs.

The plant at Timperley, near Altrincham, is part of Metal Box's engineering divisioo and supplies components and spares for can-making machinery

It bas made a loss in the past year, and the company says the closure is taking place because of the steady decline in demand for its products and the need to cut thc overheads of the engineering division as a whole.

Demand for spares from Timperley stems partly from Metal Box's move to the electro-welding process for its three-piece food cans

● Talbot Cars is to relocate its UK beadquarters from Whitley in Coventry. About 150 of the 900 staff and engineers emplnyed there will lose their jobs, the company disclosed yesterday. A former BL plant bas been purchased on the outskirts of Coventry and the Peogcot-Talbot parts centre will be switched to it, from Birmingham.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, said the proposed closure fell sbort of the parant group's obligations under a 1978 declaration of intent to the Government in respect nf UK facilities. He added: "I regret the company has not been able to agree to my request for a ministerial meating to discuss the Whitley decision."

GEC subsidiary cuts workforce by a quarter

By Nick Garnett

Salford Electrical Instruments, a GEC subsidiary, is about to complete a restructuring exercise, cutting its workforce of 1,150 by more than a quarter to 850.

Departments are being relocated and product changes introduced.

The company has set up new prodnction lines to make a replacement for the conventional motor car aerial. It is also producing an instrument similar to a wristwatch which military personnel will use to detect flashes of radiation.

Salford Electrical, has cut out some product lines such as domestic thermostats and voltage measuring instruments because, the company says, "Japanese prices" have killed profits.

● The Liverpool Dock Labour Board is to press ahead with seeking 200 voluntary redundaocies among registered dockers on the Mersey. The move has been authorised by the National Board despite rejection by the Transport Workers' Union, at a mass meeting of Liverpool dockers.

Dockers with 15 or more years' service are being offered £22,500 tax free.

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Deposit rate %	Share accounts %	Sub'pn shares %	%	Others
Abbey National	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.25	1-year high option, 7.25 6 years sixty plus, 6.75 min. £100, 7 days' notice no interest lost
Aid to Thrift	7.00	7.25	—	—	
Alliaoce	6.00	7.25	7.75	7.25	3 years Money Monthly £1,000 mio. Ioterest paid monthly
Anglia	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	3 yrs., 2 mths.' withdrwl. notice
Birmingham and Bridgwater	6.00	6.25	7.75	7.25	Extra Interest Shares
Bradford and Bingley	5.75	6.25	7.25	7.00	1 m. not. or oo dem. (int. pen.)
				7.25	High I. a/c 3 m. not. (no peo.)
Britannia	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	Option Bond, 7.25 2 mths.' not.
Cardiff	6.00	7.00	7.75	—	
Cardiff	—	*7.50	—	—	* Share a/c bal. £10,000 & over
Catholic	6.00	6.50	7.50	7.50	6 months' deposit, £500 min.
Century (Edinburgb)	6.50	7.00	—	8.00	2-4 years
Chelsea	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.70	3 yrs., £1,000 min. im. wdl. pen.
Cheltenham and Gloucester	6.00	6.25	7.25	—	
Cheltcoham and Gloucester	—	7.25	—	—	Gold Account—savings of £1,000 or more. No nolice—oo peoalty
Citizens Regency	6.00	6.50	8.00	7.50	3 yrs. Double Option shs. 7.40
City of London (The)	6.25	6.60	7.50	8.00	£10,000-£30,000, montbly income, 3 montbs' notice oo penalty
Coventry Economic	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.75	4 yrs., 7.50 3 yrs., 7.25 3 mths.
Derbyshire	6.00	6.25	7.50		6.75-7.35 (3 months' notice)
Greenwich	6.00	6.50	7.75	7.75	2 yrs., 7.50 28-day peo./notice
Guardian	6.00	6.50	—	8.25	6 mth., 7.75 3 mth., £1,000 min.
Halifax	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	Extra Interest Plus, 3 months' wdl. notice or loss of interest
Heart of England	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.00	1 mth. not., 7.25 flexi. tm. 3 yr.
Hemel Hempstead	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.75	3 yrs., 7.50 3 months
Hendon	6.50	7.25	—	6.00	6 months, 7.75 3 mooths
Lambeth	6.00	6.50	7.75	8.00	6 mths., 7.75 28 days, 7.25 3 m.
Leamington Spa	6.10	6.35	6.60	—	
Leeds and Holbeck	6.00	6.25	8.00	7.75	5 yrs., 3 mths.' interest penalty
Leeds Permanent	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	HRAS, 7.00 E.I. a/c £500 min.
Leicester	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	3 yrs., 7.25 3 months
London Grosvenor	6.00	6.60	6.50	7.10	3 mths.' notice 1 mth. iot. pen.
London Permanent	8.00	6.75	—	7.50	1 m. not. or oo dem. (iot. peo.)
Midshires	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.25	1 year, 3 months' notice no pen.
Mornington	6.80	7.30	—	—	
National Counties	6.25	6.55	7.55	8.00	28 days, 8.25 6 mths., £500 min.
National and Provincial	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.50	3 years, 7.00 1 month
Natioowide	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	3 yrs., £500 min. imm. wdl. with peoalty. Bonus a/c 7.00 £500 min. imm. wdl. with peoalty
Newcastle	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.75	4 yrs., 7.25 28 days' notice, or on demand 28 days' int. penalty
New Cross	7.00	7.25	—		7.25-8.25 on share accs., depending on mio. balaoce over 6 months
Northern Rock	6.00	6.25	7.60	7.00	High int. sh. 7.25 Prem. share
Norwich	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.25	3 yrs., 7.00 2 yrs.
Paddington	5.75	6.75	8.25	7.25	7 days' ootice
Peckham	6.75	7.00	—	7.50	2 y., 8.00 3 y., 8.50 4 y., 7.25 Bos.
Portman	6.00	6.25	7.75	7.00	1 mth., 7.25 6 mths., 7.25 5 yrs.
Portsmouth	6.35	6.55	8.05	8.40	5 yrs., 8.00 6 mths., 7.50 1 mth.
Property Owners	6.25	6.76	8.25	8.25	4 yrs., 8.25 6 mths., 7.75 3 mths.
Scarborough	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.25	Mooey Care + free life ins.
Skiptoo	6.00	6.25	7.50		7.00-7.15 (1 mth.) 7.25 3 yrs.
Stroud	6.15	6.25	7.50	7.85	3 mths., 7.25 1 mth. (no penalty)
Sussex Couoty	6.15	6.40	8.15		6.90-7.90 all with withdrawal option
Sussex Mutual	6.25	6.50	8.00		6.75-8.00
Thrift	6.16	7.15	—	9.15	5 yrs. term. Other accnts. avail.
Town and Country	6.00	6.25	7.50	7.50	3 yrs., 60 days' wdl. ootice
				7.50	imm. wdl. 28 days' interest loss
Wessex	6.25	7.30	—	—	
Woolwich	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	90 days (int. loss), 7.25 Special Interest Shares 90 days' not. or imm. wdl. with 90 days' int. loss (min. £500), 7.00 immed. wdl. 28 days' interest loss
Yorkshire formerly Huddersfield & Bradford and West Yorkshire	6.00	6.25	7.25	7.25	$ Star Bond min. £500, 2 mths.' not. with pen., 7.25 Golden key imm. wdl. 28 days' pen. interest

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCK 2/4/83

Statistics provided by DATASTREAM International

Name and description	Size (£m)	Current price	Terms*	Conversion dates&	Flat yield	Red yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Eqn§	Income Conv¶	Income Div◊	Cheap (+) Dear (−)◊ Current
British Land 12pc Cv 2002	9.60	295.00	333.3	80-97	4.1	1.0	2.9	−4 to 8	29.8	81.1	17.9	+15.0
Hanson Trust 9½pc Cv 01-06	81.54	195.00	107.1	85-01	5.0	3.0	−4.2	−4 to 7	116.2	72.2	−21.6	−17.4
Slough Estates 10pc Cv 87-90	5.03	234.50	234.4	78-84	4.3		−1.9	−13 to −2	17.9	9.5	−3.5	−1.6
Slough Estates 8pc Cv 91-94	24.72	108.50	97.5	80-89	7.5	6.9	9.1	4 to 12	29.2	34.8	5.6	−3.5

* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the final conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 10 per cent per annum and is present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ¶ Income on £100 of convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ◊ This is income of the convertible less income of the underlying equity expressed as per cent of the value of the underlying equity. ◊ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent of the value of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness, − is an indication of relative dearness. & Second date is assumed date of conversion. This is not necessarily the last date of conversion.

BT strike to begin on Tuesday

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

AN OFFICIAL, indefinite strike by selected telecommunications engineers in Whitehall and the City of London will begin on Tuesday in protest against the Government's plans to privatise British Telecom.

The action by the Post Office Engineering Union will be aimed at Government offices, but it is uncertain how far it will also hit big financial institutions such as the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England.

Militant London branches appear to have been persuaded hy union leaders to abide by the official programme. However, they warn that stronger unofficial action will go aheau unless the official measures are stepped up until they bring a change of heart by the Government.

British Telecom also faces disruption over the imminent connection of Mercury, the independent telephone network, to the BT system.

POEU engineers are expected, in line with the nnion's conference policy, to refuse to make the initial connection at Mercury's new headquarters at Longacre in Covent Garden, London.

The connection between Mercury's Private Automatic Branch Exchange and the public network is expected to go ahead, even if senior engineering executives have to do the work, but it could bring serious industrial relations consequences.

Mr Doug Rice, secretary of the London North Central Internal Branch of the POEU, which covers the Longacre area, has warned there could be coordinated industrial action throughout central London if members are suspended for not doing the work or if it is given to other grades.

BPCC print plants to remain closed

MR ROBERT MAXWELL, chairman of the British Printing and Communication Corporation, said last night that the company's plant at Park Royal, ind London and East Kilbride would remain closed, with a loss of 750 jobs.

This followed an announcement by the BBC that it had placed the contract for printing the Radio Times and The Listner with another company, although it would not divulge the name.

Talks between Mr Maxwell and Mr Bill Keys, general secretary of the main print union Sogat '82, broke down early yesterday when the union refused to give guarantees demanded by Mr Maxwell that there would be no further disruption at the plants, and that productivity measures would be implemented.

Both Mr Keys and Mr Maxwell agreed that the talks had been close to agreement, however, Mr Keys added that the union would black the publicatinns if printed elsewbere—a possibility Mr Maxwell dismissed as remote.

Mr Maxwell said he was "relieved that I will no longer be obliged to print the Radio Times at a loss of £2m a year."

Chemical industry pay talks stall

By Our Labour Staff

PAY TALKS for 50,000 process and craft workers in chemicals have reached stalemate after leaders of the seven unions rejected a 4.5 per cent increase in the basic hourly rate offered by the Chemical Industries Association.

Mr John Miller, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the offer would not be put to members and demanded another meeting when employers had a new offer.

"If we don't get one, we foresee a lot of trouble ahead," he warned.

The association did not describe its offer as final, but has no plans for a meeting to reconsider it. The current agreement expires on May 8.

The negotiations involve companies such as Albright and Wilson, Laporte and BP Chemicals, but exclude ICI.

Under the association's offer, the national minimum rate would become 209p an hour for the 38-hour week to be introduced in May following an earlier agreement.

Clydeside prepares for jobs battle

David Goodhart on union plans to prevent shipyard redundancies

LISTENING to some of the shop stewards from the Clydeside shipyards last week you could be excused for imagining that the Red Clyde is gearing up for an explosive come-back.

Memories of the Upper Clyde work-in of 1971 mingle, a little incongruously, with jealous references to Polish shipyard workers changing the course of history.

But Glasgow is not Gdansk and Jimmy Reid, now safely ensconced as a newspaper columnist, shouts only from the headlines.

Most of the officials and stewards realise their industrial muscle has largely turned to flab with the catastrophic fall-off in the world market. Mr Alan Ritchie, a sub-convenor at Govan, said: "You can't have a work-in if you've got nothing to work on. In 1971 we had orders worth hundreds of millions of pounds and we still had to fight like hell to get the government money."

The latest redundancies were not unexpected after Scotland escaped unscathed from the last round in January — but, naturally, there will be attempts to organise resistance. The Clyde yards are planning a wide-ranging, community-based campaign similar to that launched on the Tyne by the shipbuilding unions and the local authorities.

Mr Willie Rnbb, a district official of the Boilermakers' Union based in the one-industry shipbuilding town of Greenock, said: "We've got to persuade everyone from Tory MPs and the clergy to the TUC to help us stop the Government turning this place into a Sahara of unemployment."

The empbasis is on the estimated three jobs outside the yards which depend on everyone inside, the destruction of neighbourhoods, and the proximity of the General Election. The alternative programme: a Buy British policy forced on British shipowners, and a "scrap and build" scheme.

Should that fail, and should British Shipbuilders press ahead with a major closure or a batch of compulsory redundancies, the union shipbuilding negotiating committee is pledged to resist by any means —including industrial action. That stance was supported overwhelmingly at mass meetings on the Clyde at Scott Lithgow and Govan—and most other yards around the country—last week.

But it is one thing to put your hand up at a mass meeting and quite another to forfeit redundancy payments of up to £11,000 with seemingly futile industrial action. Mr Joe Baird, a convenor at Scott Lithgow, admits that many of the 5,500 workers in the yard "speak with forked tongues" over redundancies.

Indeed, the main complaint against the unions from outside the Govan Yard was that they had failed to boost redundancy payments above an average of about £5,000 for a man with 15 years' experience.

British Shipbuilders has had remarkably little industrial conflict since 1977—in spite of the loss of over 25,000 jobs—and the betting must be that the latest round of cuts will be absorbed. The wage freeze—with some token local productivity agreements—now looks almost certain to be reluctantly accepted

But aside from militant fantasies about teaching "her" a lesson and bringing down the Government, the shipyard workers may yet rally to resist decimation, according to Mr Jim Murray, chief union negotiator.

He said: "It could start in a fragmented way in one of the yards that's badly hit and just snowball."

A national conveners' conference last weekend—in a careful discussion of tactics—decided simply to refuse to accept short-time working rather than strike against it.

Many of the stewards and conveners from the traditionally more militant Clyde believe that with much stronger support now from the Tyne, with many of the voluntary redundancies already gone and with strong community backing, compulsory redundancies can be resisted.

The seeds of recovery begin to grow

MINING

KENNETH MARSTON

"IT NOW seems clear that a recovery is beginning to get under way, although it is still too early to know how robust it will be or how long it can be sustained."

That summing-up of the picture for the U.S. economy, and thus the mining industry in general, has come from Messrs George B. Munroe and Richard T. Moolick, chairman and president, respectively of Phelps Dodge in their annual message to shareholders.

Phelps, the leading U.S. copper producer is emerging bopefully from a truly awful year for base metal markets which resulted in a 1982 loss of $74.3m (£51m), the first since the depression years of 1932 and 1933.

For much of last year virtually all the company's big copper installations were closed down because of the weak demand and low prices for copper. The workforce was sharply reduced and there were cuts in the pay of salaried employees and in the dividend paid to shareholders.

Now that the market is beginning to improve the big Ajo mine in Arizona has been reopened and Phelps' total copper production has been restored to about 75 per cent of capacity. At this level each rise of 1 per cent per lb in the price of copper—currently around 80 cents per lb—raises pre-tax profits by $4.9m on an annual basis.

This heavy gearing to copper pricea cuts both ways, of course, and after having been badly bitten last year Phelps is now going to diversify into other metals and minerals, as and when funds become available, after first reducing the company's debt. It could be the start of an interesting new career.

Even in a general recession diversification can cushion falling profits and America's Amax would bave shown an even bigger loss than the $390m recorded last year had it not been for the higher earnings from coal and iron ore. Even so, tha company is still beavily dependent on the fortunes of the steel industry metal, molybdenum, and the ontlook for this remains cloudy.

So last year Mr Pierre Gousseland, the chairman, took a leaf out of the book of his predecessor, Mr Ian MacGregor, and launched an austerity programme which did not come a moment too soon. Production of metals was sharply curtailed, allowing cash to be generated by the sale of the previously growing stocks.

The workforce was slimmed down by some 30 per cent, there was a shake-up of middle management, while capital expenditure was chopped in half to $310m. This drastic action reduced the cash drain by some $550m and Amax is now a leaner and hungry animal.

Amax still faces a long haul to recovery because the deferred interest payable on its loans and the eventual need to restore capital expenditure bave to be taken into account. But like Phelps, and many others, the company will have learned some bard lessons in the hard days of 1982 and this could be an asset for the future.

In the world of diamonds, there was not a lot De Beers Consolidated Mines could do last year apart from grin and bear it. The group's Central Selling Organisation (CSO) still bad to buy and stockpile production from De Beers and other world mines in order to preserve stability in the depressed diamond market.

By the end of the year this stockpile of unsold rough (uncut) diamonds amounted to to R1.83bn (£1.14m) and, as we all know, financing the glittering stock has been no easy matter for De Beers. After all it exceeds the 1982 world total of R1.34m in rough diamonds sold by the CSO on behalf of De Beers and other producers.

But, at last, the economic recovery is filtering through to the diamond market. This week the CSO bas announced that as from April 5 it is raising its prices for rough gem stones by an average of 3½ per cent. Industrial diamond prices remain unchanged.

The previous increase came io September of last year and amounted to 2½ per cent overall. But it was largely borne by the smaller and cheaper gems, notably those handled by the cutters in Bombay for which there has been a continuing good demand throughout the general recession.

The important thing about the latest price rise is that it spreads rather higher up the better than expected retail sales seen over the Christmas period, particularly in the U.S. which is the major market for diamond jewellery.

Diamond stocks held at the cutting centres are now down to normal levels and at this year's first two "sights"—CSO sales to the trade which take place 10 times a year—sales of roughs were running at a considerably higber level than in the second balf of 1982.

The diamond market is not yet out of the wood because demand remains stagnant for the very fine larger diamonds such as those which come into the "investment" category. On the open market prices of these gems in cut and polished form remain far below their 1980 peaks.

The rare, and wonderful, one-carat gem of D Flawless quality, for example, was reputedly worth as much as $63,000 in 1980, but it slumped in price to around $15,000 last year and is still thought to have a value of just under $20,000 (£13,560).

So while the latest price increase will give a further fillip to trade sentiment in both the retail end and at the cutting and polishing centres, it is not going to transform the fortunes of De Beers overnight. While the growth of the big stockpile will at least slow down, it is still going to take a long time for the stocks to be sold on top of continuing production.

Meanwhile, gold continues to sit on the sidelines, but comfortably enough with prices holding safely above the $400 per ounce line. The average for the first quarter of this year works out at about $464 per ounce compared with $427 in the final quarter of 1982.

So the March quarterly reports of the South African mines—due to start flowing within the next week or so—should make a satisfactory showing. The general view is that prices will continue to coast along until the end of the summer when, some observers feel, a return of inflationary pressures could bring the yellow metal into fashion again.

● The South African Budget this week has contained no shocks. The only measure to affect the mining companies has been the long-expected decision to phase out State assistance to the marginal gold mines. This aid will finally end on June 30 next year. Only eight of the gold mines qualify for aid and at the current gold prices none need it.

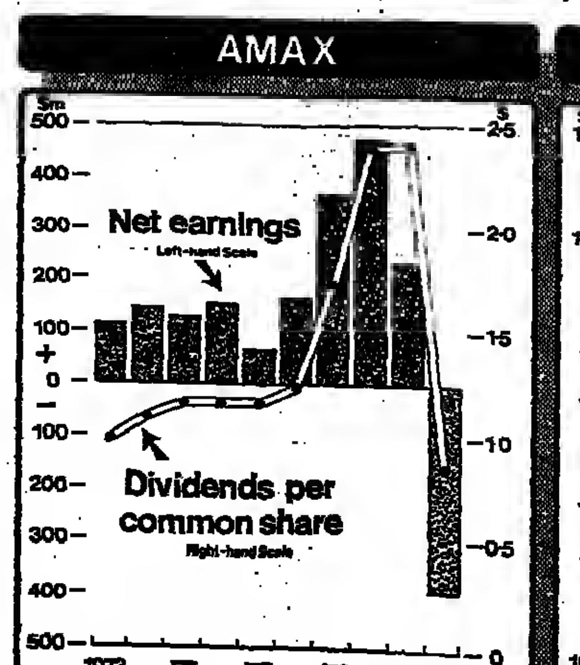
● Randfontein Estates has now decided that the gold area immediately to the north-east of its "new" Cooke mine can be profitably worked as an extension of the existing mining operations. Discussions have been started with the other owners of the area's mineral rights to reach an agreement on the financial arrangements.

● The Canadian Echo Bay Mines, controlled by the U.S. diversified IU International group, is to offer 3.5m new common shares to investors in Canada and Europe at C$7 (about 391p) per share.

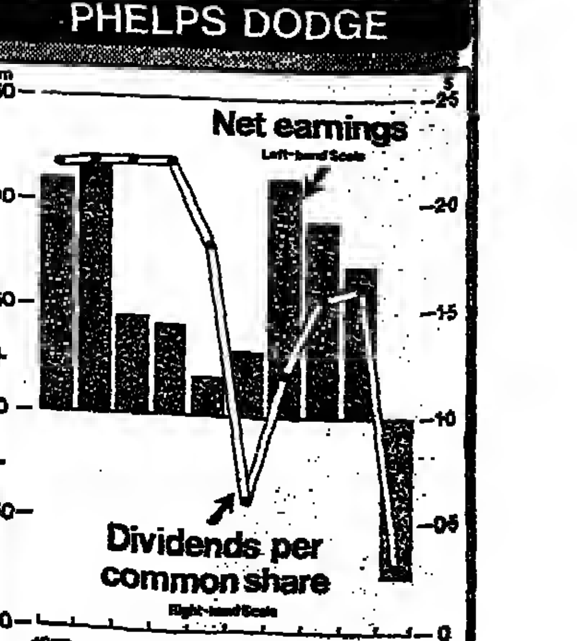
The C$24.5m to be raised will be used to reduce the loans which were made for the construction of the gold mine at Lupin in the Northwest Territories.

Lupin is the second largest gold mine in Canada with an annual production rate of over 120,000 ounces gold. This is to be lifted to 140,000 oz by January 1984 at a cost C$4m.

AMAX



PHELPS DODGE



THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Trading takes on a happier tone

LONDON

ONLOOKER

Easter it may be but this week was far from a holiday on the company news front. Bid moves, new issues and major company results gave the London market blenty more to chew on than the weakness of sterling, and fluctuations in oil prices and interest rates.

As things turned out this was all for the best for, before the City wound down for the four-day break, sterling was perking up, BNOC has eased oil price war fears and there were more favourable views on interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic.

Gilts took beart again and equities revived to leave the *FT Industrial Share Index* little changed on the week at 655.1.

In the space of four trading days the market bad seen Datastream's offer for sale heavily oversubscribed, Pleasurama bidding for Trident TV, Hepworth Ceramic jumping in for Steetley and the UDS board split over rival bids. There was also a sheaf of company figures for 1982 that included a near 46 per cent leap in *pre-tax profits* to £20.5m by the engineering giant Babcock International, while Superdrug was in line with its prospectus forecast at £5.3m.

Bowater slides

Judging by the marked second-half slump in Bowater's pre-tax profits, the company has been caught badly flat-footed in North America. The decline is all the more unfortunate since it has adopted a policy of rapid expansion and liberal capital spending in a market which has dominated the group's funding requirements in recent years.

The steep downturn in the newsprint market and additional price cutting on pulp products caused a 20 per cent reduction in the vital North American profit contribution, leaving overall pre-tax profits 32 per cent lower for the year at £72.5m (£106.7m). The profit fall came despite a £138m increase in group turnover to £1.57bn.

Perhaps worse than the latest results is the board's depressing forecast that North American profits will be even lower this year than last. This gloomy prospect has understandably loomed large in the minds of the directors and was plainly an important factor in the company's decision to slice last year's final dividend to 3.5p (7.25p), leaving total payout down from 11.5p to 7.75p.

To some extent Bowater's current reversal in North America may be seen as its own doing. Heavy capital expenditure combined with relatively lax cost controls bave saddled the group with expensive over-capacity.

Also funding by outside borrowinga has resulted in a deterioration in the balance-sheet. In recent years Bowater'a cash flow has been consistently negative, though last year's casb outflow was contained at £18m. The company is now paying considerably more attention to cost saving and product improvement, but working capital reductions are limited in scope.

After a miserable year in paner making, the outlook for UK operations is fairly bright this year, however. Heavy redundancy costs last year and the slimming programme are expected to pay off with a major profits improvement. At best Bowater could maintain overall profits this year, but a return to the levels of 1981 will not be achieved overnight.

BAe turbulence

British Aerospace shocked the market this week wben it wiped a round £100m off ita 1983 profit figures as a "matter of financial prudence." The stock market decided on its own idea of prudence and chopped £42m off BAe's market capitalisation in one day.

What BAe has done is to write off a £100m exceptional provision to bring its civil aviation invenlories down to a level at whicb it can make respectable profits over the next couple of years. Instead of a 20 per cent increase in profits to £84.7m the group presented investors with a £15.3m pre-tax loss for 1982 against a £70.6m profit. The blow waa softened by a dividend increase of just over 8 per cent to 8.45p a share.

The share price fell 21p on Tuesday, the day of tbe announcement, to cloae at 216p. When the group was privatised by the Government two years ago the shares were offered to the public at 150p.

The group's problem is clear cut enough. A deep recession amongst the world's airline operators bas resulted in an atrocioua market for the manufacturers. Civil aviation sales only accounted for a fifth of BAe's total turnover of £2.035bn last year but work in progress on civil projects accounted for two-thirds of the group's inventories running at around £950m to £1bn. Sales of civil aircraft are vulnerable to delay as the cash strapped airlines battle it out in the market place.

For example the BAe 146 feeder airliner bas just completed an overseas sales tour but only picked up 17 firm orders with another 19 options. For perspective BAe bopes to win orders for around 400 of that model by 1995 when it will bave spent between £300m and £350m on "launching costs." The Airbus is proving almost equally slow moving—BAe has a 20 per cent interest in the Airbus Industrie project.

On a more encouraging note, military aircraft and missiles look set to produce growing profits and the group's satellite operations are also growing rapidly. But as far as investment sentiment is concerned it will he the picture of brand new civil airlines gathering dust that dominates the mind.

Reckitt stronger

It is indicative of the nature of the game of marketing household products that Reckitt and Colman put an extra £30m on promotional spending last year. This represented over 3.3 per cent of turnover of £901m.

On the face of it this seemed a high price to pay for the £74m increase in sales over the period. But it bas to be viewed in the long-term context of establishing brand names. About a third of the money went to launch two products on the U.S. market.

However, the group, whose interests range from food and wines, to toiletries, pharmaceuticals and leisure, with such famous brand names as Robinsons, Colman's Dettol, Harpic and Windsor and Newton is far from sbort on strong brands already.

It is on the back of this strength that tbe company has achieved a firm growth record. For 1982 it pushed up pre-tax profits by £8.7m to £75m, in line with the mid year forecast. The most outstanding contribution came from UK exports on which profits jumped 63 per cent to near £8m.

At home there was a £1.2m increase to £20.7m as volume gains, that came from brand promotion, counteracted the effects on margins of some tough bargaining by the major retailers.

For Reckitt in the current year the outlook is for sales growth little more than in line with inflation, but this would not be an unsatisfactory performance for such a mature, broadly spread consumer products group.

Stanchart rights

Tbe stock market did not quite know what to think about Standard Cbartered's £97.5m rights issue, announced on Wednesday. But it managed a knee-jerk reaction, marking the sbares down 24p to 456p and keeping them at around tbat level.

The bank says it wants to take advantage of new lending opportunities during the world economic recovery and will use some of the cash to develop business at Midland and International Banks, the consortium which Cbartered took over last February and which is to become the group's main merchant banking arm.

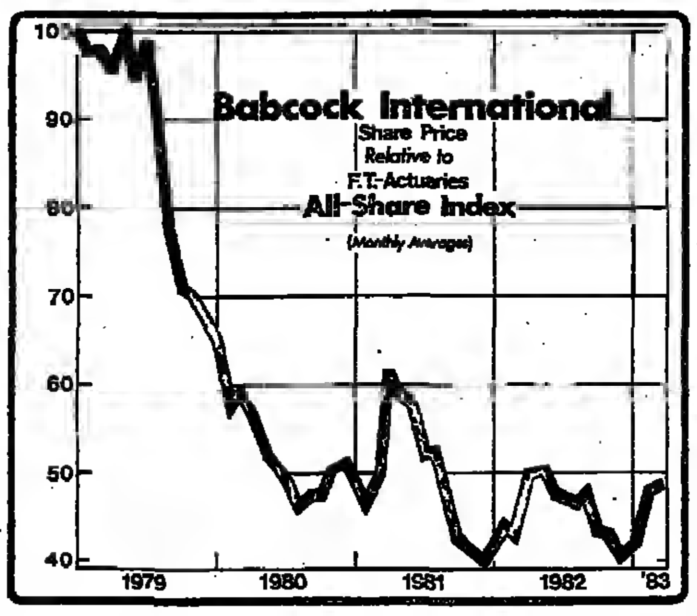
But City analysts point to the bank's need to spruce up its equity-to-deposits ratio, which had deteriorated to about 2.4 per cent. This alone was enough to justify a call on shareholders sooner or later. On a generous estimate, the proceeds from the one-for-five rights issue should lift that figure to around 2.8 per cent, broadly in line with the clearing banks' average.

The issue is, bowever, a revealing illustration of the difficulties which the big UK banks are facing—along with their U.S. counterparts—in securing new cash.

They bave a common need for fresh equity, but are severely hampered by the substantial discount to net asset value on which their shares trade. Meanwhile, increasingly generous dividend distribution policies have driven up the cost of servicing new equity.

Standard Chartered will be lucky if last week's issue does more than pay two years' dividends on the expanded share base. All this is exacerbated by the group's beavy overseas exposure, where the weakness of sterling has inflated foreign denominated liabilities. Clearly, the bank bopes that world trade will expand enough this year to generate sufficient profits to iron out such problems.

Even in 1982's gloomy economic climate, Chartered generated an underlying volume lending growth of 14 per cent, with deposits not very far behind. So if the improved equity ratio is to be maintained, the group will need retentions of well over £110m against last year's £78m.



MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Thursday's price	Change on week	1982/83 High	1982/83 Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	655.1	−1.8	673.6	518.1	Special situations feature
F.T. Gold Mines Index	559.7	+21.8	734.7	181.2	Partly on bear closing
Assoc. Book Publishers	240	+30	240	100	Increased annual prfs. & dividend
Bellair Cosmetics	44	+15	68	7	Awaiting news of bid approach
Bowater	170	−12	263	145	Poor results
Bridon	45	+11	84	26	Results
British Aerospace	203	−31	263	170	£100m provision in results
Burmah Oil	175	+26	175	106	Rumours of oil strike
De Beers Dfd	524	+22	525	165	Bear squeeze
Exco Int.	685	−48	760	172	Profit-taking after results
Fisons	580	+34	583	114	U.S. clearance for 'Nasalcrom'
Good Relations	203	+25	203	58	Profits/proposed scrip issue
G.R.E.	432	+14	446	262	Better-than-expected results
Leisure Inds.	300	+38	300	116	Bid approach
Newbold & Burton	57	+11	57	37	Chairman's optimistic statement
Rustenburg Platinum	480	+55	485	120	Recent good results
Sharna Ware	95	+19	105	58½	Speculative demand
Standard Chartered	458	−40	500	340	£101m rights issue
Steetley	218	+65	218	125	Bid from Hepworth Ceramic
UKO Int.	73	+9	73	27	Bid speculation

Snorting bulls

NEW YORK

RICHARD LAMBERT

THE BULLS are still snorting. Althougb ahare prices on Wall Street have made no overall progress since late February, two or three flashes of excitement in wbat has otherwiae been a quiet week have sbown the underlying strength of the equity market.

On Tuesday, Chrysler raised about $430m in an offering of new shares which aold out in a matter of hours. Its sbare price was unmoved by this flood of new paper, which bas been issued as part of the company's successful refinancing package.

The next day it was Allied Corporation's turn to test the market, and again the message was positive. It sold its 7.2 per cent stake in RCA to Salomon Brothers for $129m, and after a blizzard of phone calls by its salesmen, the big securities firm in turn sold the whole lot on to a wide range of institutional investors. According to the New York Stock Exchange, it was the biggest such sale on record in terms of dallor value.

RCA's shares slipped back a bit as a result of tbe transaction. But then there had heen speculation that Allied's stake might have been used as a stepping stone by a prospective bidder for RCA, and the fall in the share price had more to do with the fading of takeover hopes than anything else.

On Tbursday the action switched to the oil and oil service sectors, which burst into life after a long period of depression. Although the market as a whole fell back on the day, the list of most active stocks was dominated by companies like Atlantic Richfield, Schlumberger, Amerada Hess, Exxon, Mobil and Halliburton — all of which showed good gains. The demand was such that a dozen or more issues were unable to start trading until mid-morning.

The immediate explanation for all this appeared to he the news that British National Oil Corporation was planning only a modest cut in the price of North Sea crude. This was thought to reduce the threat of a further downward spiral in oil prices.

At the same time, word spread that analyst Charles Maxwell, of brokers Cyrus J. Lawrence, had put out a buy recommendation on half a dozen major oil stocks. As nne of the top-rated oil analysts, his thoughts packed a punch—even though many nther analysts think that the oils atill have a long and weary way to go

The rest of Wall Street bas had a pretty dull time in tbe past few days. The religious holidays have helped to keep the level of trading volume down to some of the loweat figurea reported this year, and there have been one or two rather confusing messages from the credit markets. On Monday and Tuesday the Federal Open Market Committee met to review tactics for the next month or two. As usual, there was no official guide to its conclusions, but the general assumption was that the authorities were not planning any significant cbanges in their monetary management .

However, the Federal Funds Rate rose sharply in the latter part of the week. Tbe explanation seemed to be that the banks were shuffling about in the money markets to make their first quarter balance sheets look as pretty as possible and there were no comparable movements in Treasury Bill or Government bond prices. All the same, the rise did not go down well in the equity market, which remains extremely sensitive to movements in short-term interest rates.

Another reason for Wall Street to be sligbtly twitchy is that the economic news in the next few weeks is likely to prove rather less upbeat than was the case earlier in the year. Very short-term indicators are often misleading, and there is no suggestion that the economic recovery is about to disappear. All the same, it is not exactly encouraging to learn that General Motors and Ford bave sligbtly lowered their production plans for this month.

Finally, two or three corporate borror stories may be having a ratber dampening impact on the bulls. Much the most serious is the continuing saga of Baldwin-United, the large Cincinatti-based financial services group which produces grim new episodes practically every day. Some kind of crunch point appears to be in the offing: meanwhile the shares have crashed to under $12, compared with over $35 at the beginning of the month.

MONDAY	1133.32	−6.77
TUESDAY	1131.19	−2.13
WEDNESDAY	1143.29	+12.10
THURSDAY	1130.03	−13.26

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS—1

Turning bricks to brass

MANY elderly people, particularly, find themselves living in their own house, which is often worth a substantial sum, and having to exist on an income that is little more than the inadequate basic State pension.

So various home income plans have been devised to endeavour to solve the problem of getting an income from the house as an asset while still living in the house as a home.

The most popular scheme involves taking out a mortgage on the house and using the money to buy an annuity. The annuity payments are used to service the loan with the balance providing the income. Such schemes are marketed by Abbey National Building Society and Hambro Provident, a subsidiary of Hambro Life Assurance.

But they suffer from two disadvantages. The majority of the annuity payment goes back to the institution in interest payments. The houseowner gets the residue. And the houseowner has to be well over 70 before becoming eligible for the scheme. This week an Aldershot-based firm of insurance intermediaries, Inishowen, launched a brand new version—the Retired Homeowners Income Plan—in conjunction with Premium Life Assurance.

Under this plan, the houseowner sells his house to Premium Life at a sitting-tenant valuation. Premium Life then grants the householder a lease for life on the house at a nominal fixed rent of £1 per month. The lease is a full repairing and insuring lease so that the householder agrees to maintain and adequately insure the house, the insurance being arranged through Inishowen.

The money raised by the sale is used to invest in one or more of the linked life bonds marketed by Premium Life. The house bought by Premium Life will form part of the assets of a new Residential Property Fund, which will be available to the general public. Inishowen is recommending at present that the money is invested in this new fund.

HOUSE WORTH £31,250 VACANT POSSESSION, OWNED BY A WIDOW

	Hambro Provident mortgage £25,000		Retired Homeowners Income Plan	
Age	Income	*Capital paid on death after 10 years*	Income	*Capital returned on death after 10 years*
65	Ineligible		£652	£8,344
70	£935	£25,902	£847	£10,842
75	£1,410	£25,902	£1,071	£13,712
80	£2,110	£25,902	£1,315	£16,834

The householder now uses the normal withdrawal facility on his bond to provide his income. Since most people using this scheme will not be paying any tax at all, while the rest will be *basic rate payers only*, they can withdraw any sum from the bond free of tax.

The unit price of the Residential Property Fund should increase from two factors—the general rise in house prices and the narrowing of the differential between a vacant possession price and a sitting-tenant price of the householder as he gets older.

It is estimated by Premium Life that as house prices generally rise by 5 per cent, the value of units in this fund will rise by 11.4 per cent. Inishowen is recommending any interested clients to take a 9 per cent withdrawal of their investment.

The scheme is available to anyone over the age of 65. It does not rely on annuities to provide the income. And no interest is paid. At death the house is possessed by Premium Life, but the houseowner's estate receives the value of the bond. Similarly, if the householder leaves the house, to live with a relative or enter an old people's home, the householder still has the benefit of the bond and its capital appreciation. If the lease is terminated this way within eight years, Premium Life buys an annuity for the householder out of any excess profit arising from a premature reversion.

This scheme in endeavouring to solve the disadvantages of the present scheme only succeeds in creating new problems.

The first feature that is likely to cause trouble is the differential between the vacant possession price and the sitting-tenant valuation. A 65-year-old man living in a house with a vacant *possession value of £30,000* will get around £9,000 on a sitting-tenant valuation.

Secondly, it is difficult to see how Premium Life is going to ensure that the house is reasonably maintained. It will inspect the premises every three years, but Peter Connor, Premium's chief executive is reluctant to say how it will enforce repairs on an unwilling householder.

Finally, the value of the bond will be taken into account as capital in the £3,000 limit for supplementary benefit while the house itself is not. The position on withdrawals as far as supplementary benefits are concerned is not clear. But using this scheme is most likely to debar anyone from claiming supplementary benefits. This must always be borne in mind.

At the end of the day, the plan in many respects is less favourable than the existing schemes from Hambro Provident and Abbey National. Figures provided by Inishowen show no marked advantage for its scheme in terms of income or capital returned on death.

The plan is marketed solely through Inishowen. Pat Doherty of Inishowen is insisting that the houseowner consults his professional adviser and his or her immediate family before proceeding. Inishowen has applied fur registration as an insurance broker.

Eric Short

Savings boost

NATIONAL SAVINGS has fired its opening salvo in its campaign to raise £3bn during the coming financial year. With inflation estimated to rise to 6 per cent this autumn the Government's room for manoeuvre was clearly limited. Most National Savings products are competitive but not extravagently so.

So Wedenesday's announcement that National Savings planned to broaden the appeal of its two best-selling products came as no surprise.

From April 11 investors will be able to hold up to £5,000 of the 25th issue of National Savings certificates compared to the £2,500 ceiling at present. This is a favourite tactic of the National Savings department and has been used in the past to whet savers' appetites.

Introduced last autumn the 25th issue is yielding 7.5 per cent net of all taxes over five years. The interest at the end of year one is 6 per cent.

In addition, the minimum investment in the income bonds will be reduced from £5,000 to £2,000 on May 3. Income bonds came onto the scene in August and nearly £825m has poured into these bonds in the seven months since they were launched.

As figures released last week showed National Savings, despite a slow start, are now bang on target to rake in £3bn for 1982-83. National Savings says it hopes to get a healthy start towards meeting its current £3bn target by relaxing some of the terms on the national savings certificates and income bonds. It will be seen whether it will be forced to take further action to stem the outflow of money from index linked bonds.

Rosemary Burr

Rosemary Burr talks to Mark Weinberg on the future of your money

Selling the personal touch

TOO MUCH choice can be confusing. That at least is the view of Mark Weinberg, chief executive of Hambro Life one of Britain's most successful life assurance companies.

"Most consumers do not enjoy shopping around for financial services — they are confused about where to go for what, and how to decide whether the product offered by one company is better or worse than another," Weinberg argues.

Weinberg believes the financial groups that are going to carry away the accolades in future are those that offer customers a range of services. But simply providing a whole series of products will not be enough according to Weinberg: "In order to tie in the customer to that group, the group has to package the range of services in a way that makes life easier for the customer."

So far Weinberg thinks the banks have failed to capitalise on their undoubted breadth of services. Although life assurance companies have been slow to spread their wings he argues they have a secret weapon at their disposal.

That weapon turns out to be the humble life assurance salesman, the butt of as much humour as the proverbial mother-in-law. Weinberg says: "They are selling the hardest service there is to sell. Selling others should be easy. Whatever people say about life insurance salesmen the public won't buy from them unless they trust them."

So Weinberg is hoping to use the relationship built up by his 3,000-strong sales force with 500,000 policyholders as the foundation of a more ambitious growth plan.

Under this plan the salesman will either directly market the additional products or introduce customers to a Hambro Life employee who can cater for their needs. Administration will be centralised and one integrated computer system will be used so that customers receive a single statement summarising their total financial position and commitments.

A crucial part in the financial jigsaw was the acquisition last year of the small merchant bank Dunbar whose main claim to fame was shareholder Sean Connery. However, if Weinberg's longstanding vision of an integrated financial service was to be realised he badly needed both a banking vehicle and experienced portfolio managers.

Dunbar under its chief executive David Buckhouse clearly fitted the bill. Pre-tax profits have risen steadily since Buckhouse took over the reins ten years ago and last May the bank obtained a full Stock Exchange listing.

So what exactly does Weinberg have in mind? "I want to provide an integrated service-life insurance, unit trusts, banking and portfolio management." Some time later this year the exact components of the package should be unveiled.

Apart from chequebooks, credit cards and a general insurance package from Guardian Royal Exchange, a shareholder in Hambro Life, the lynchpin is likely to be a sophisticated version of a higher interest account. This will provide customers not only with an interest rate superior to that of an ordinary deposit on sizeable sums but probably also a guaranteed line of credit.

At a later date Weinberg will consider what other products to add, for example he might buy a travel company or even further down the line make some arrangement with a reputable time share group.

Weinberg is clearly going market and believes that people will pay a slight premium for personal service and the convenience of streamlining their financial affairs. However, he is aware that: "We can't afford to get a customer's back up by giving bad banking services, for example."

Selling insurance and pensions tends to be more profitable than marketing diverse banking services and portfolio management. Weinberg, however, is not prepared to sit back and watch others encroach on his territory.

Attack, it seems, is the best form of defence. The banks and building societies have been warned.

Mark Weinberg

Tax and the unemployed

I became unemployed on November 1 1982 and because of a service agreement and severence pay, was adjudged ineligible for unemployment benefit until November 1 1983. Although aged 60, I continue to register regularly at the unemployment benefit office (UBO) believing this to be necessary to preserve pension and sickness benefits. I have received no income since becoming unemployed, and applied some weeks ago to my tax office for a refund of tax overpaid under PAYE. They first told me that as I was still registered with the UBO, a refund was not permitted until after the end of the tax year. I objected to this seemingly inadequate decision and after some delay the tax office undertook to write to the UBO implying that if they confirmed that I was not receiving benefit, a tax refund could be arranged before the end of the tax year, an apparent reversal of their previous "ruling." Could you say what the position is, please?

As you presumably handed your P45 to the UBO when you first registered, it is to the UBO that you should have applied for a PAYE tax refund, as soon as your claim for benefit was refused (for the remainder of the current tax year), not to your old tax office. You will find general guidance in the free leaflet IR41 (Income tax and the unemployed), which is obtainable from most tax inspectors' offices.

Reducing capital taxes

My wife and I are considering transferring our house, worth about £75,000 to ours with the aim of avoiding capital transfer tax, and, if applicable, capital gains tax. Is it possible to arrange such schemes oneself, or is it essential to use a solicitor?

It would be wise to consult a solicitor, since a scheme to reduce or eliminate the incidence of capital taxes needs to be evolved in the light of your whole financial circumstances and after a full consideration of all factors concerning the donors and the proposed donees. It should be possible to effect gifts of parts of the respective equitable interests in the house which will avoid a charge to capital taxes if the house is your only or main asset.

Ownership of files

Could you kindly advise me regarding the ownership of files prepared by a solicitor, who acted for me in connection with the sale of one property and the purchase of another?

As the solicitor acts as an agent I assumed that the files were mine. However, he advises that he must retain possession of them because he may be called upon at any time to produce them in connection with his Practising Certificate, but I may inspect them at his office.

However, I wish to retain them in my own home and review them at my own leisure and have offered to return them immediately, if required for inspection purposes, but they have not been given up.

Can I require the files to be handed over to me?

The question of ownership of the files is more complex than your solicitor suggests, and your proposal is in practical terms a sensible solution. In law you own and are entitled to all original letters/documents sent to your solicitor; but he owns the copies of letters/documents prepared and sent out by him.

Hence, on strict entitlement, the file would have to be split. If that were done you would be entitled to take copies of the documents retained by your solicitor.

VAT and building work

I am writing on behalf of the Trustees of a Chapel-of-Ease, which is a Grade II listed building. There is a cottage attached to the Chapel (an integral part of the building) into which Rentokil put a damp course in May 1981. In order to do the work they had to strip off the existing plaster which was replaced by our local builder.

We and the builder, understood that all this work was free of VAT, but recently the VAT inspectors examined our builder's books and say that, although the damp course is free of VAT, the tax must be paid on the subsequent plastering and we now have a further charge of £110 to pay. This seems utterly ridiculous, as the plastering is a necessary part of the work involved with the damp course. Can you tell us, please, if this charge is valid?

We think it may be helpful if we try to give you an explanation of the rules relating to zero rating in connection with building work. This is not an easy task as these rules are not absolutely clear.

Zero rating is given in connection with the alteration of a building where the alteration does not include works of repair or maintenance. In our view the installation of a damp course for the first time is available for zero rating and that is what has happened in your case. Zero rating is also given for the cost of materials and services which are supplied in the course of any such alteration. We agree with your view that the plastering should be zero rated for the reason stated in our previous sentence. It may be that the VAT inspector took the attitude he has because the plasterer did not make the alteration to the building, i.e. the installation of the damp course. If this was his reasoning it is not in our opinion sound. We believe that you are entitled to look at the work done on the cottage as a whole so that the alteration and replastering should qualify for zero rating.

FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Oral agreement about land

I have a ½ acre paddock attached to my garden and plan to let a neighbouring farmer use the field to keep a few sheep and/or take the hay. I would make no charge. Would the farmer be responsible for keeping the fences in good stock proof order? I would propose to make an oral agreement that he would use it (a) on an annual basis to be renewed from year to year or (b) until further notice unless or until I should wish to sell the land to somebody else or use it for any other purpose at any time in the future. Is this satisfactory and are there any legal points to look out for?

First, do not rely on an oral agreement: that could easily lead to disputes at some later date. You should give a written licence to *graze and to mow* hay and limit that to a period of less than a year, say 360 days. There must be a fresh written agreement in each year, preferably after an interval of a few days. You should stipulate in the agreement that the licensee must ensure that all fences are sufficient to keep the animals grazed from straying during any period when animals are let into the paddock.

A power of attorney

In my youth I was taught that a Power of Attorney was automatically revoked, (a) if the donor performed in person any act which the donee was empowered to perform, unless the Power specifically provided for such alternate operation, or (b) if the donor became mentally incapable of understanding either the nature of a simple business transaction or of the transactions the subject of the Power; or mentally incapable of revoking the Power. Again this could be circumvented by a clause in the Power saying, in effect, that the donor did not desire revocation in these circumstances.

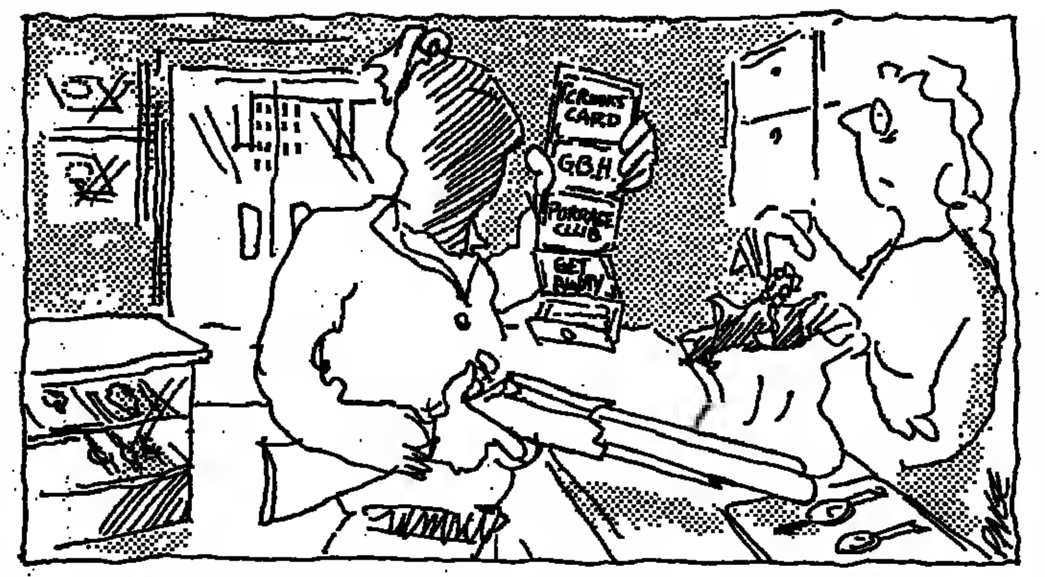
These provisions seem very sensible, particularly the second, since it protects the state of a mentally infirm person from the depredations of an unscrupulous agent. However there is no mention of any of this in the Powers of Attorney Act 1971. What is the present position please?

Sections 4 (1) and 5 (2) of the Powers of Attorney Act 1971 do impinge upon the general principles to which you refer. Thus a power expressed to be irrevocable and given to secure a proprietary interest of the donee is not revoked by acts done personally by the donor or by his supervening incapacity. Moreover it remains unclear whether a donor may not in some circumstances remain liable under the general law even after he becomes incapable: see *Drew v. Nunn* (1879) 4QBD 661.

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS—2

Taking your money on holiday . . . **William Dawkins** reports

Plastic worth its weight in gold



AT A TIME when the pound is slipping against most major currencies at an alarming rate, making the right decision on how to take money abroad has become more crucial than ever.

Clearly, it would be ill-advised to carry sterling in cash or travellers' cheques if the pound is likely to weaken against your holiday country's currency.

Until now, the simplest — though not necessarily the most economical — solution for travellers in Europe has been to arm themselves with an ordinary cheque book and cash guarantee card. However, from May 1, customers of most major banks will have to apply two weeks ahead for a special Eurocheque encashment card.

The banks introduced this system to cut down the possibilities left open for fraud by the 1m British cards alone which could have been used almost anywhere in Europe. Under the new system, less than 1m British cards are expected to be used abroad.

But the cards can still be used at 190,000 bank branches in 39 countries.

Cardholders are restricted to *two cheques of £50* each a day and each cheque attracts a fee equivalent to the local currency value of SwFr 2.50. The cheques have to be written in sterling, giving no opportunity to guard against sudden plunges in the exchange rate during the holiday and the encashment card cannot be used to guarantee cheques at retailers.

However, there are several ways to minimise the risk of losing out from exchange rate movements without having to be a financial boffin. The new system includes uniform Eurocheques, which can be written out in the currency of the country where they are being used.

These are high security printed cheques which can be used for making payments or obtaining cash. No single cheque — which must be backed by a uniform Eurocheque card — can be guaranteed for more than the local currency value of SwFr 300 (£75 in the UK), but there is no limit to the number of cheques which can be written daily.

The system's only drawback is its expense — a fee of 1.25 per cent of each cheque value. And only a limited number of banks — Allied Irish, Midland, Bank of Ireland, Clydesdale and Northern — issue uniform Eurocheques.

Most holidaymakers would do well to depend on their credit cards. For travellers in North America, there is little point in taking anything other than Visa or Access to pay big bills because they are so widely accepted. But remember the cash advance fee, which ranges between 1.25 per cent and 1.5 per cent. Any bank abroad displaying the Visa sign offers this facility. There is no currency exchange charge, however, for purchases of goods made with credit cards. Plastic cards also tend to attract more favourable exchange rates than those offered by hotels or banks.

And, of course, they offer the opportunity to settle bills on the never-never. With punitive credit charges, this could, on the other hand, be a disadvantage for some people.

Credit cards in the Visa system can be used in more than 155 countries at 12,500 banks and 3.4m retail outlets. Many cards have the additional advantage of offering free travel, car and luggage insurance.

So-called debit cards — like Diners and American Express — are attractive to holidaymakers who do *not* want to be hampered by the pre-set spending limit which applies to credit cards. But you do have to pay on the nail when your bill comes in. Payment can be deferred by using a gold card — like that offered by American Express — which guarantees an overdraft on a bank account and also offers higher levels of insurance than on a standard card.

Gold cards are not so widely acceptable as the others, tending to be restricted to the more upmarket shops and restaurants. But then you have to be upmarket to qualify for one. Suitable candidates must earn at least £20,000 a year.

Both debit and credit cards carry the risk that the exchange rate may shift unfavourably between the time of transaction and when the card company gets round to processing the bill. It can take up to a week for a foreign transaction on Barclaycard to reach the company in Northampton via the Visa computer in California.

Humble travellers' cheques denominated in local currency offer one simple way to reduce exchange rate risks and most brands offer an automatic refund in case of loss. Most also attract a 1 per cent commission, although share account holders at Leeds Building Society can get commission free travellers' cheques up to £5,000 on demand and any amount above that but within the limits of their account by giving a few days' notice. However, sterling denominated cheques only are available.

Share account holders with *Leicester Building Society* can draw up to £1,000 worth of commission-free travellers' cheques in sterling or dollars backed by a Leicester card.

Travellers who need to take a mixture of currencies should consider the Girobank's postcheque system, which can be used at 80,000 post offices in 28 countries—mostly in Europe—and at 200 U.S. post offices run by the Western Union Telegraph Company.

> 'There are several ways to minimise the risk of losing out on exchange rate movements without being a financial boffin'

Girobank account *holders* with cheque guarantee cards can get books of five cheques free which can be written out in foreign currencies. No charge is made at the time of the transaction, but account holders have to pay 50p for each cheque used when it is debited in the UK. The limit is two cheques of £50 each day and overdrafts are not normally allowed.

The exchange rate is applied by the postal administration in that country before the bill leaves for the UK.

Postcheques are particularly useful in rural areas where there are no banks or hotels—like southern Greece, where I had to travel more than 40 miles last summer just to cash a traveller's cheque—and post offices offering the facility are easily identified by the blue postcheque sticker, which carries Girobank's logo.

The Girobank issues a booklet listing countries participating in the scheme and some local exceptions to the £100 daily *spending* limit.

You do not have to be a Girobank customer to qualify for its service offering post-free registered deliveries of foreign currencies and travellers' cheques.

Customers simply fill in an order form at their local post office and Girobank posts the money at the rate applying on the date of despatch, saving a second trip to the post office.

The commission for currencies is 1 per cent with a minimum charge of 50p plus 10p for each extra currency. Normal commission rates apply for travellers' cheques.

No single system is best for all countries, although a credit card can be used practically anywhere. The most sensible thing is to adopt a combination of solutions to suit local conditions.

But whereever you are, remember to keep your different cards, cheques and cash in separate places to minimise the risk of losing them all at once. Surprisingly few people do more than pay lip service to this elementary rule.

Access to a long life

ACCESS CARD holders, along with their latest monthly statement, are being offered by National Westminster Bank what is termed a special life protection offer entitled Mainstay.

The bank has linked up with Legal and General Assurance to offer protection at a comparatively low cost to age 60 with the premiums returned if the cardholder survives to age 60.

On the face of it, this scheme is neither a protection policy nor a savings plan but a mixture of both and it is claimed that market research showed that the public were interested in this type of scheme.

Under a normal term assurance policy, the individual pays premiums during the term of the contract and the life company pays out the sum assured if the individual dies during the period. If the individual survives the period, there is no refund of premiums and NatWest claims this feature upsets most persons.

Unlike fire insurance, where no one expects any money back *if the house does not catch fire,* on a life contract, the public expect some back at the end of the term. Mainstay does just that.

It is a mixture of term assurance, with-profit endowment assurance and fatal accident benefit, combined to provide death cover of £20,000 to age 60, which is doubled for death by accident, plus at least the premiums returned at age 60.

The table shows how the costs are broken down—a feature that is not explained in the Access literature.

As a package offering a reasonable amount of protection plus some savings element, Mainstay is acceptable. But it is no substitute really for people properly planning their life assurance and savings needs to meet their own circumstances.

A young man with a family needs much higher protection levels than £20,000. A man in his 40s with the family almost off his hands can concentrate on savings, however.

Again the period of cover is too long. Any insurance and savings arrangement needs to be constantly reviewed and adjusted to meet changing circumstances. It is always claimed that such packages are better than nothing. But all too often such an excessively long-term arrangement results in the individual being complacent about insurance and adopting the view that no changes will ever be required.

Life companies are linking up more with other institutions to market their products and at the same time secure other financial benefits for their policyholders.

Legal and General has been particularly active in this field. Another recent venture is its link with Forward Trust, so that existing policyholders taking out a 10-year savings plan called TreasureChest can get credit at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per month (APR 19.5 per cent) compared with the Forward *Credit* scheme charging interest at 2 per cent per month (APR 26.8 per cent).

Mainstay cover to age 60 £20,000, doubled for accidental death
Net monthly premium

age	term contract	Endowment assurance	Accident benefit	total	total premiums paid	projected maturity value
25	3.98	2.66	1.53	8.17	3,431.4	8,118
30	4.63	3.10	1.53	9.26	3,333.4	6,087
35	5.57	4.04	1.53	11.14	3,342.0	5,010
40	6.96	7.46	1.53	15.95	3,828.0	5,778

Eric Short

PROPERTY

Restoring a village cottage

BY JUNE FIELD

WHEN you bought that little period cottage in the country that however dilapidated, was part of a unified terrace, did you promptly alter the shape of the windows, replace old slates with modern tiles, and tack on such superfluous out-of-character refinements as mock-Georgian carriage lamps?

If so, you were possibly being well-intentioned rather than deliberately lacking in taste and feeling, over-enthusiastic and ill-informed about how sympathetically to go about alterations and improvements. Nobody minds make-believe in keeping with the original, it is the destruction of character that hurts.

"Change your House Without Changing Your Address" is only one of the numerous promotions that lists the wide range of unaesthetic "improvements" which are having their effect on the character of our country cottages. And only a few local authorities and amenity societies are making an effort to meet the challenge of the "new vernacular."

Ipswich Borough Council is one planning authority which has tried to counteract unfortunate do-it-yourself practices with a small but succinct booklet called "'Improving' Your Castle." It shows how a well designed terrace could end up a hodge-podge of mis-matched shapes and textures.

A practical well-documented report by SAVE, *Estate Villages: Who Cares?* shows how the pleasing although unpretentious cottages provided by landed estate owners to house their workers, and the "model" dwellings built by industrialists as living quarters for those working in their mills and factories, are suffering from haphazard rehabilitation. The term "Estate Villages" is used by the author Kate Pugh to cover settlements which were built of a piece, as an aesthetic or moral exercise, or both, as well as those planned to house a workforce on a new industrial estate.

As many of the houses in estate villages are quite small and humble, says Marcus Binney in the introduction, even relatively minor alterations or extensions can radically affect their appearance. "Insensitive new windows and porches can quickly rob a picturesque estate cottage of its charm."

Above: Bembury House, Thornford, Sherborne, one of the properties included in the Sherborne Castle Estates auction on Thursday. The 4 bedroom house was modernised in the early 1950's, and has a guide price of £65,000 to £70,000. Details of this and other cottages for sale from Sean Henderson, Palmer Snell 65 Cheap Street, Sherborne, Dorset (0935 812218), who are open this Saturday morning to arrange viewing. Top right: Listed early 19th century estate cottage in Hound Street, Sherborne, which goes to auction on a guide price of £15,000 to £18,000 on Thursday. Details of this and other Sherborne Castle Estates properties from Sean Henderson, Palmer Snell, 65 Cheap Street, Sherborne, Dorset (0935 812218), who are open this Saturday morning to organise viewing.

Although Mr Binney is forced to admit that new owners understandably want to carry out improvements, and often to make their own houses stand out from their neighbours.

Fewer than 500 villages remain in the hands of private landlords, out of many thousands in the 19th century. Capital taxation and inflation has resulted in the breaking up of many estate villages, most of which have kept their character over the years because they were in single ownership, and under the stewardship of a caring estate manager.

Illustrated are how individual "improvements" have broken the attractive rhythm and architectural entity of modest terraces, as in one colliery village where windows have out-of-character frames, and bogus Regency style front doors replace the simple basic originals. And a bow window sits oddly on a Derbyshire gritstone wall, and sandblasting and modern pointing, allowed in a conservation area as "permitted development," looks even worse. As does a clumsy flat-roofed extension attached to an old thatched school in Suffolk.

In contrast, Nuneham Courtenay, near Oxford, well known for its association with "Sweet Anburn, the loveliest village of the plain" in Oliver Goldsmith's *The Deserted Village*, looks externally much as it did 200 years ago. This is due to close controls and restrictions that the local residents and newcomers are quite happy to abide by. In contrast to villagers in another area whose perhaps understandable reaction to the district council's programme of preserving distinctive features was "it's our property they're trying to tell us what to do with. We don't want our homes turned into museums."

Anyone contemplating conversion, whether of an estate property or otherwise, would do well to study the case histories illustrated; there is even a mention of Esholt, part of which is used to film ITV's serial *Emmerdale Farm* and which has bad its share of problems. The book is £3.50 including postage from SAVE Britain's Heritage, 3 Park Square West, London, NW1.

If you want to buy an estate cottage or farmhouse, then Sherborne Castle Estates are selling off 11 dwellings in the town and nearby villages, which are surplus to requirements. The auction is on Thursday at the Post House Hotel, Sherborne, historic abbey town with a population of about 9,000, on the north bank of the River Yeo close to the Dorset/Somerset borders.

It has the famous school founded in 1550 by Edward VI, plus a ruined castle given by Queen Elizabeth 1 to Sir Walter Raleigh who promptly started to build another castle, eventually granted to Sir John Digby. The present resident tenants are the Wingfield Digby family who are selling the cottages, four of which are listed as of architectural importance, on price guides ranging from £15,000 to £70,000. Brochure from Sean Henderson, Palmer Snell, 65 Cheap Street, Sherborne, Dorset (0935 812218) who say that they will be open this Easter Saturday morning to make appointments to view.

Mr Henderson told me that there is already enormous interest in the cottages, which while not derelict, all need some work done on them, some having been empty for a year or so.

For help and advice generally on restoring and maintaining period property, the second edition of the Guild of Master Craftsmen *Guidebook of Restorers* is an excellent reference. (£6.50 from Alan Phillips, Guild Secretary, 170 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex.)

The guide lists specialist builders all over the country, and gives an idea of where their work can be seen. For instance Richard Pulman in Kirklevington, Cleveland has worked on cottages in the Yarm Conservation Area, T. Brook and Company, Devon, established in 1840, restored the Elizabethan house which is now Totnes Museum, and Ken Randell, The Smithy, *King's Lynn*, Norfolk, completely rebuilt in original style the Old Toll House at Setchey after it had been demolished by a car!

Roger Simpkins is a one-man joinery business started 12 years ago in a Wiltshire village to cover the need for non-standard windows and doors for old property, and John Hynam, Grate Restorations in Gloucester Road, Brighton, has over 100 *art nouveau* fireplaces in stock.

I cannot resist adding a postscript to all that I have written about correct restoration. A reminder that it is of course people who matter most in a village rather than the buildings. Mary Hadfield in *The Cotswolds — A New Study* (David and Charles 1973), probably summed it up best when she wrote that village life was more threatened by modern incomers regarding the village as a place to have a property in rather than the place they live in, and failing to use the buses, support the shops, join village clubs and work in village activities.

COMPANY NOTICES

Varsity masters

CHESS

LEONARD BARDEN

A CONSTANT stream of new talent from the universities has been a major factor in the British chess boom of recent years. There is plenty more to come, judging by the high standards at last month's Oxford v Cambridge match sponsored by Lloyds Bank at the Royal Automobile Club.

Victory in this traditional fixture, which began in 1873, definitely runs in cycles. Cambridge won ten times in a row in the 1960s and 1970s when their players included Keene, Nartston, Stean, Mestel and Littlewood who all went on to become grandmasters and/or British champions. Now Oxford have established a similar supremacy. Their 6—2 victory this year was their third in succession, and all the signs are that Oxford's lead will continue for some time.

A measure of their strength in depth was that the bottom men's board, Hawksworth, defeated Korchnoi at last year's Lloyds Bank international; Oxford even omitted two players who have held their own in the British men's championship. Detailed results (Oxford names first) were: K. Regan 1, N. W. Ivell 0; W. N. Watson 0, S. D. Bell 1; D. H. Cummings 1, M. Kerridge 0; J. J. Cox 1, A. W. Beardsworth 0; T. J. Upton 1, S. H. Niman 0; J. P. Levitt 1, G. Anthony 0; J. C. Hawksworth 1, C. Mackenzie 0; Miss A. Rakshit 0, Miss P. Coxon 1.

Oxford's top board Kenneth Regan, a U.S. international master, demonstrated how a tempo sacrifice in the opening can achieve a favourable fixed pawn formation with good knight outposts. Black's victory was assured by move 15 when he had established a firm blockade; yet the winner later admitted he distrusted his own strategy. The impression remains that White's bishops, passive spectators, could have been used to greater effect.

White: N. W. Ivell (Cambridge)
Black: K. Regan (Oxford)

Sicilian Defence, Grand Prix Attack

1 P-K4, P-QB4; 2 P-KB4.

A favourite anti-Sicilian move in British weekend events due to the good results of Hebden, Hodgson, Rumens and other prominent players in the annual Leigh Grand Prix. White already signals his intention of a king's side attack.

2... N-KB3; 3 P-Q3.

More direct is 3 N-QB3, P-Q4; 4 P-K5 and if P-Q5; 5 PxN, PxN; 6 PxNP, PxP ch; 7 QxP, QxQ ch; 8 BxQ when White can establish a K5 knight. 3...N-B3; 4 N-KB3, P-Q4; 5 P-K5, N-KN1.

Already planning a blockade.

6 P-KN3, B-N5; 7 B-N2, P-K3; 8 P-KR3, BxN; 9 QxB, N-K2; 10 O-O, P-KR4; 11 Q-B2?

Artificial and tactically dangerous. White puts his queen on the same diagonal as his king when Black still has a dark-squared bishop. Natural is 11 B-K3, N-B4; 12 B-B2 with chances to smoke out the knight blockader by a later P-KN4.

11...N-B4; 12 N-B3, R-B1; 13 P-R3, P-B5!

Exploiting White's 11th by the threat of 14...NxKP! 15 PxN, B-B4.

14 K-R2, PxP; 15 PxP, QN-Q5; 16 B-Q2, N-N6; 17 QR-Q1, B-B4; 18 P-Q4.

This pawn sacrifice, a desperate attempt to generate piece activity, is in any case almost forced by the sequence 18 Q-K1, P-R5; 19 P-N4, N-KN6; 20 R-B3, N-Q5; 21 R-K3, N-B7.

18...BxQP; 19 Q-K2, NxB; 20 QxN, BxN; 21 PxB, Q-R4.

Coolly efficient. Castling would give White chances of a P-KN4 counter-attack.

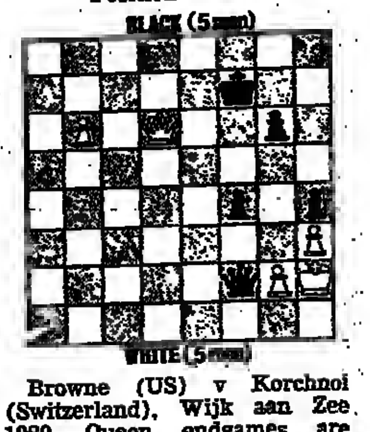
22 R-B3, R-B2; 23 R-Q3, N-K2; 24 P-B5, NxP; 25 BxP.

Hoping for PxB? 26 RxP threatening both RxQ and R-Q8 ch, but this is easily stopped.

25...O-O. Now if 26 B-N2, QxKP. 26 Q-QB2? PxB; 27 Resigns. For if 27 RxP, N-K6! and Black stays a piece up.

Position No 468

BLACK (5 men)



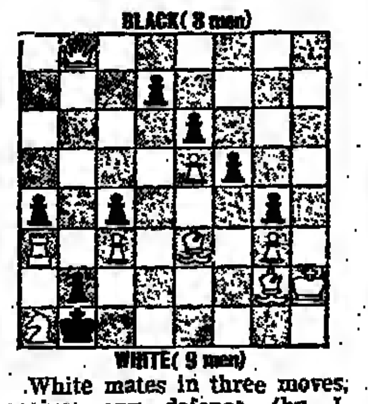
WHITE (5 men)

Browne (US) v Korchnoi (Switzerland), Wijk aan Zee 1980. Queen endgames are always tricky, with pawn advances, perpetual checks, and king manoeuvres requiring precise calculation.

Here Walter Browne (White, to move) needed to win with his passed pawn to share the tournament first prize, but Korchnoi threatens a perpetual by Q-N6-K8 ch and also plans P-KB6. What should White play?

PROBLEM No. 468

BLACK (8 men)



WHITE (9 men)

White mates in three moves, against any defence (by J. Koers, Basler Zeitung 1960). This easy-looking puzzle defeated many earlier solvers.

Solutions Page 12

What's the hurry?

BRIDGE

E. P. C. COTTER

PATIENCE, we are told, is a virtue, but the declarers in my two example hands today were not endowed with that quality. Let us see what happened in this deal from rubber bridge:

```
            N
          ♠ 6 3
          ♡ A
          ◇ A K 8 7 5 2
          ♣ 10 8 4 3
    W                 E
♠ K J 7          ♠ 10 9 4
♡ Q J 10 8 3     ♡ 9 6 4 2
◇ 6              ◇ J 10 9 4
♣ J 9 7 2        ♣ Q 6
            S
          ♠ A Q 8 5 2
          ♡ K 7 5
          ◇ Q 3
          ♣ A K 5
```

With North-South vulnerable East dealt and passed. South opened the bidding with one spade, and jumped to three no trumps after a bid of two diamonds from his partner—a sequence with which no one could quarrel.

West made the obvious lead of the heart Queen, which started South's troubles by removing a vital entry to the table, and the declarer at once went to work on the diamonds, returning the two to his Queen. When a second diamond was led to the King, West showed out, and South began to feel hot under the collar. Now everything depended on the spade finesse, so cashing the diamond Ace, declarer came off the table with a spade and finessed the Queen. West had the King—it wasn't really South's day—and the contract was defeated.

We won't waste sympathy on South—he failed to look for the added chance. At trick two he should cross to his club Ace, and follow with the King. The suit may break 3—3, or East may have Queen or Knave doubleton. When East produces the Queen on the second round, the contract is assured, a third club loses to the Knave, but sets up dummy's ten for the ninth trick.

If clubs fail to provide an extra trick, nothing is lost. The declarer tries for the 3—2 break in diamonds, and when they, too, prove unkind, he can still try the spade finesse as the last resort. Three chances are better than two—why settle for less than the best odds?

```
            N
          ♠ A Q 3
          ♡ J 7 5
          ◇ K 10 5 4
          ♣ Q J 6
    W                 E
♠ J 2            ♠ 10 9 8 6 4
♡ 10 9 6 4 3     ♡ 8 2
◇ 2              ◇ J 9 7 6
♣ 10 9 8 4 3     ♣ A 2
            S
          ♠ K 9 4
          ♡ A K Q
          ◇ A Q 8 3
          ♣ K 7 5
```

With both sides vulnerable South dealt and bid two no trumps on his balanced 21 high card points, and North with 13 points went straight to six no trumps, which became the final contract.

West led the club ten, East took with his Ace, and switched to the eight of hearts. The declarer won and at once cashed the diamond Ace, and followed with the Queen—he knew the safety play against four diamonds to the Knave with West — but unfortunately West showed out on the second lead, and the slam was no longer makeable.

South was far too quick to play on diamonds. There is nowhere else for his twelfth trick to come from, so he should embark on a voyage of discovery before he tackles the vital suit. He should play off two more clubs, and he gets his reward when East shows out on the third round—so West started with five clubs. Now declarer cashes his three heart winners, and again East fails to follow suit on the third round—so West started with five hearts. That means that he can hold only three cards in diamonds and spades. South cashes King and Queen of spades, West follows both times, and therefore is marked with at most one diamond. Cashing the diamond King, declarer leads the ten and runs it with confidence when East plays [illegible]

Springtime in London . . .

THIS IS the time of year that cities start coming into their own. The weather nudges towards a pleasant walkable mood, the trees push out shiny new leaves and city parks start to show the results of those months of winter tenderness that seem as yet to have avoided the worst effects of town hall cut-backs.

The most important thing for country visitors to know is that all the talk about a city being a series of villages *is entirely* accurate.

Ask a Londoner where he lives and the reply will not be "London" but much more likely, "Chelsea" or "Islington." The confusing aspect of all this is that to the residents or, say, Fulham, the streets of Highgate might just as well be the canals of Mars for all they know of them. The man of Notting Hill will be lost in Camden, and as far as those *favoured* inhabitants of Belgravia are concerned World's End, Chelsea, is exactly that.

Abuse will be my lot therefore in suggesting that as far as the short visitor is concerned there *is little reason* to venture outside the ring of London Transport's Circle Line. This will mark your world by Kensington High Street to the west, Tower Hill to the east, Paddington to the north and the Embankment to the south. Apart from excursions to the South Bank culture complex anything south of the river is off the map.

That sort of remark should indicate that the following is a *highly subjective view of* a visitor's London, a highly personal idea of what might catch the visitor's eye. It is assumed that anyone coming to London knows of the basic tourist sights — Buckingham Palace, Parliament nad the Tower.

Three shopping walks: 1. Covent Garden, starting at the east side (the Aldwych) and zig-zagging through to Charing Cross Road. A recently created world of boutiques, restaurants, wine bars and market stalls. The craft market in the Piazza is particularly good.

2. Oxford Street. South Molton Street and Bond Street. Start at Selfridges, a once-dreary mammoth of a place which seems to have taken on a new lifa recently. The same cannot be said of the rest of Oxford Street which is generally pretty tatty.

Move quickly to South Molton Street, with its fascinating boutiques, and on down Bond Street, the midle bit of which is not as badly infected with chain stores as the top section.

3. Knightsbridge and Beauchamp Place. In fact most of this walk is in the Brompton Road but that only confuses things. Start at Harvey Nichols, that intimate, exclusive store, and then head down to Harrods, Mecca of today's shopping world. The little shops of crowded Beauchamp Place will come as a relief after all that and there are one or two watering holes there to rest the tired legs.

Where to stay: The main hotel strip these days runs from Marble Arch in an arc down Park Lane to Knightsbridge. A double room with breakfast on this strip is likely to set you back £85 a night or more.

At the Knightsbridge end do not overlook the tiny, and pricey, Capital Hotel, or the really excellent THF property, the Hyde Park. In the centre the Connaught retains its reputation, but much favoured hideaways include the Stafford and Dukes, both tucked away in St James's. *The east side of town* is still dominated by the Savoy.

Where to eat: The best food in town is a subject of much debate but the consensus would seem to focus on the Tante Claire, intimate and somewhat inaccessible in Chelsea, the Gavroche, intimidating and expense account in Mayfair, Ma Cuisine, a cosy (some would say tiny) little gem in Walton Street, and two hotel restaurants—the Connaught and the Chelsea Room at the Hyatt Carlton Tower.

Roger Taylor

Covent Garden, a new tourist attraction for London.

TRAVEL

ARTHUR SANDLES

Of these, the Gavroche and the two hotels offer the best setting for a business lunch. More easterly alternatives for this purpose include the Savoy Grill, Inigo Jones in Covent Garden, the Terraza Est, just off Fleet Street, and the Baron of Beef in the City.

For more romantic and less expensive, eating try September in the Fulham Road, Mimmo d'Ischia (it can be noisy) on the Belgravia/Victoria borders, upstairs at Manzis (a Soho fish restaurant), or the Grange in Covent Garden (all around £20-£30 for two).

The in-places for lunch are the media haunts, much frequented by the advertising world and journalism. High on this list are Langan's Brasserie in Mayfair, l'Escargot in Soho and the Neal Street Restaurant in Covent Garden.

For something quicker and cheaper, try the coffee shop at the Selfridge Hotel.

For the kids, and those who like to think of themselves as still swimming with the youthful tide, the places to be are Joe Allens in Covent Garden and the Hard Rock Cafe at Hyde Park Corner.

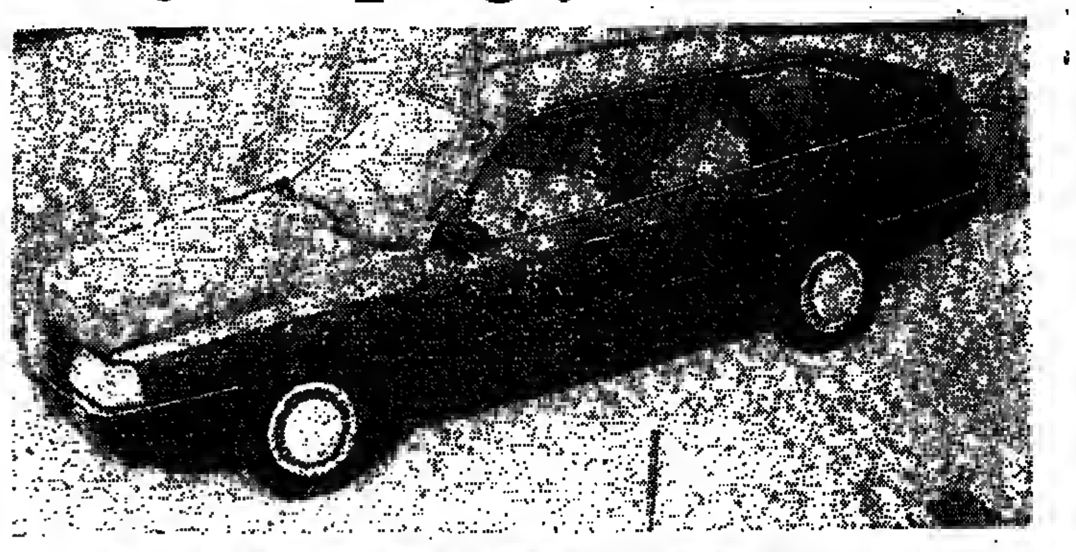
The Arts: Don't leave London without checking on what is on at Covent Garden and the English National Opera at the Coliseum. Recommended theatre evenings include Wayne Sleep's *Dash* at the Apollo in Victoria; Cheryl Campbell in *Miss Julie* at the Duke of Yorks; Diana Rigg and Rex Harrison in *Heartbreak House*; the very British *Underneath the Arches* at the Prince of Wales; Tom Stoppard's new play *The Real Thing* at the Strand; and *Noises Off* at the Savoy Theatre.

Most museums and galleries are in the midst of a switch from their late winter shows to the spring offerings. The best briefings on what is new are in the review sections of the heavy Sunday papers (second only to a regular reading of our own Arts page). Of the London papers listing attractions *Time Out* is far and away the best.

Don't Bother: Carnaby Street and Petticoat Lane (really Middlesex Street) are eminently missable these days.

The best source of information on London at the moment is the new London Tourist Board information centre at Victoria Station.

A question of keeping your cool



The new Audi Avant—the world's most elegant and aerodynamically efficient estate car

MOTORING

STUART MARSHALL

IT WAS NEAR freezing as I boarded the plane in London last week but on the Cote d'Azur the sun was warm enough to pinpoint a problem for car designers in the energy-conscious Eighties.

An essential feature of a car that is to penetrate the air cleanly and efficiently is a steeply raked windscreen. If it is a load carrying vehicle, then a slanted screen helps, too. The new Audi 100 Avant has both. It is the world's most aerodynamically effective estate car, with a drag factor only marginally worse than that of the ultra-slippery Audi 100 Saloon, Car of the Year Award winner for 1983.

All that sloping glass—including the flush-fitting side windows—draws the sun's heat inside the car. I'm not really complaining. It's good to feel hot when shirt-sleeved in March and the six directional vents on the fascia have plenty of throughput.

While the car was moving, it kept cool enough to be comfortable but when stationary, I had to open a window. Might not air conditioning be the answer? It would—but the refrigerating compressor uses a lot of power. (Mercedes-Benz have calculated that an air conditioner going flat out consumes 6 kilowatts of power. It only takes 22 kW to propel their largest and heaviest car, the 500SE, at 100 kilometres an hour on a level road).

The other problem the Avant suffers from is another fuel efficiency spin-off. High economy gearing makes it marvellously long-legged on the motorway. The 1.8 litre four-cylinder petrol Avant and the 2-litre five-cylinder turbo-diesel I drove in France were utterly relaxed on the autoroute; but in town, the four-cylinder petrol engined car especially was in second or third gears most of the time. The 5-cylinder diesel was better; it stayed smooth in top down to 30 mph whereas the petrol 4-cylinder began to get lumpy at just under 40 mph. The diesel has between 10 and 15 per cent better fuel economy.

I don't mean to sound as though I am nit-picking. Looked at in the round, the Avant is a superb estate car, as elegant as a saloon with the carrying capacity to match that of less aerodynamically favoured rivals.

There is lounging room for five adults with a 3 ft 4 ins by 3 ft 9 ins load floor behind. The back seat folds down one-third or two-thirds at a time to allow a combination of people and, say, skis to be carried. Completely folded away it extends the load floor to 6 ft 8 ins. There is no rear sill to interfere with loading heavy objects. The German-market models have a minispare tucked away behind the body trim on the nearside and a normal wheel and tyre-sized space under the floor for things one might wish to conceal.

An additional rear-facing bench seat for children is an optional extra. The tailgate comes as standard with a child safety lock. All the running gear is the same for the Avant as it is for the 100 saloon, though the rear suspension has been slightly stiffened and the front anti-roll bar is stronger. That is because Audi think the Avant will be more likely to carry roof loads than the saloon.

A rough-road pack is available. This stiffens the springs and shock absorbers still further and includes an under-body guard to prevent the engine, transmission and fuel tank from being damaged. Audi are not yet prepared to say when the four-wheel-drive Avant Quattro is coming, but my guess is Frankfurt Show in September. The rough-road pack and the probability of a self-levelling suspension and ABS brake option give a clue as to the kind of car it will be.

The Avant comes to Britain this July at prices likely to be about £500 higher than those of the currently available five-cylinder saloons. These range from £8,894 (the 1.9 litre manual CC) to £11,630 for the 2.1 litre automatic CD.

While you wait . . .

A FULL service, carried out on a while-you-wait, while-you-watch basis, for only £14.95, including all materials and VAT, sounded too good to be true. That is what the Milex organisation claims, so I rang them up to check I had not made a mistake.

The charge of £14.95 applies to any petrol or diesel engined car providing its sump capacity is not more than 5 litres. If it is, the extra oil is charged for. If all you want is an engine oil and filter change, plus a check of all fluid levels, the cost is only £9.95.

That really is value for money on the American pattern and it indicates the extent to which the motor trade is having to adapt to customers' requirements. The car is no longer an object of veneration. It has to be serviced if it is to run properly, so why not have it done with as little ceremony as a washing machine? One drives into a Milex centre without appointment and watches the work done, which will please the Consumers' Association. They drew attention recently to the fact that many garages charge for a full service and leave a lot of the work undone. At Milex you watch the mechanic at work and the old parts are handed to you in a plastic bag so there can be no misunderstanding.

Diesel cars need more frequent servicing than petrol cars. Milex say they are no problem. They are already handling a number of diesels used as minicabs. "Moisture traps in the fuel system need draining and tha fuel filter may have to be changed but we cope with it all at the standard price," said Milex's Graham Campbell.

Milex have centres at Lea Bridge Road, Walthamstow, and on the Greenford Road roundabout, Western Avenne. Two others will open soon in Croydon and Stamford Hill.

Paul Jennings tries to define a word for our times

My cadre, right or wrong

IS IT a reason for hope or for gloom that nobody in the entire world whether Communist or Western, can explain with certainty what a cadre is, even though the word appears in many pieces of foreign political analysis?

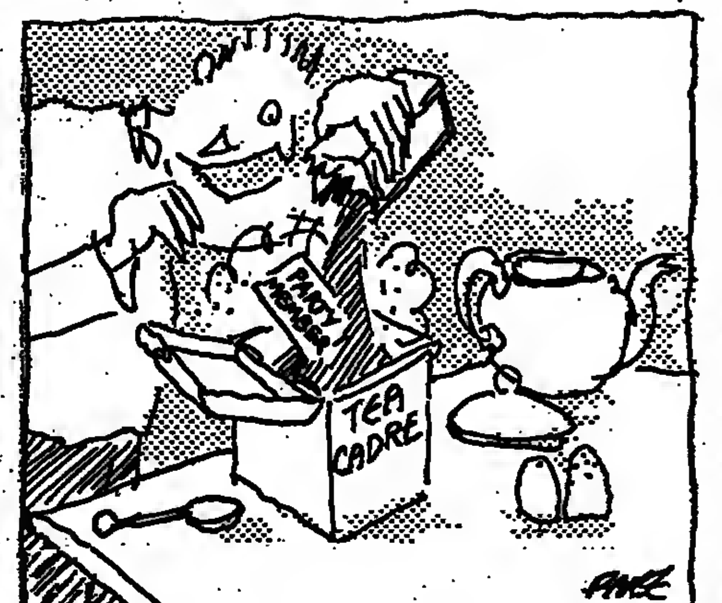
I dare say I am not the only one who has lived for years with a vague picture of a cadre as a kind of Dad's Army without the jokes. Somehow I see them in the open air. Obviously, since there are only cadres in Communist countries, they have them in Russia too. But it's too cold there for my kind of cadre, a group of people which includes some high-cheekboned women, sitting under a huge tree before a commisar person with a blackboard and a big pointer. They are learning what to do if the bullets suddenly start coming sideways, or not at all, out of their Kalashnikovs when a wave of reactionary shopkeepers with atomic grenades and deadly Aims of Industry leaflets is coming over the top at them; or how to grow rice without stooping and getting backache; or how to spell *backache*, or even just *rice*. Then they all move off to do something, like trying some landlords or digging an irrigation canal, handing each other baskets of earth and smiling madly.

But the point is that there might be ten of them, there might be 400. The numbers are indeterminate, shifting—something else which wouldn't be tolerated in regulated Russia. The people themselves aren't sure if this is the right cadre they've come to, or if it will be the same tomorrow. No doubt in the actual *army* to which they are bound to belong there are *X* people in a platoon, *Y* platoons in a company, *Z* companies in a regiment, they know where they are, like people in armies the world over. But cadres? The Russians *make* the Kalashnikov, for them the Revolution is the Establishment, they're the ones that train the commissar persons for the cadres in these other countries.

And another thing is that the very word *cadre* has about it the sound of the kind of hopeful, pre-1914 (and certainly pre-Lenin-and-Stalin) Esperantist internationalism that you see in countless BBC plays, with chaps in high rounded collars singing the Internationale, Dorothy Whatsit (Day, was it?) of the *American* Daily Worker, and the rest of them. *Que multi genti in nestro cadre? Cent e tenti-sex* (126, not a camp-site orgy), *nos operam por libert de populo, or words* to that effect (why don't they just pack it in and learn Spanish?)

As it turned out, all the people I asked what they thought a cadre was had some kind of vision of a sunlit or even jungly country, where they thought the word referred to people at all. Mr George Blackhat of Ewell, thought it was a Spanish brother-in-law, Mr Arthur Dringe of Bath thought it was an unfrocked or loose-living priest in any Mediterranean country. Elsie Dowello of Birmingham thought a cadre was a prison in a French colony, an idea *curiously similar to* that *of* Norman Hardbody of Ascot, who was almost sure he had come across it somewhere in Dumas as an instrument of torture in pre-revolutionary prisons in France. A man who said he was the Duke of Kent, although he didn't look like him to me, swore it was a card game popular in Italy in the eighteenth century where you had to get four of the same card in some complicated bidding system.

A man who ran away laughing before I could get his name said it meant Hugh Trevor-Roper, *cadre* being an anagram of Dacre, Lord which he now is. Councillor Jack Smith was insistent that *cadre* was a familiar name on the little diagrams in American boxes of *chocolates showing*, which shape was which flavour, along with crunchene, gumbo syrup, maple delight, Chinese fondant, pecanilla, Mexican almond, angel dates, etc. Cadre, a trade name for Californian Dream, was a synthetic flavour which at one time had been investigated for drug content by the authorities, so popular had it become.



All the people I interviewed were in Northumberland Avenue, where I happened to be at the time; and although a greater number of them shared my own original, vaguely paramilitary conception, it seemed best to check in the OED. "1. *A frame*, *framework*; *scheme*. 2. *Mil*. a. The permanent establishment forming the framework of a regiment 1851. b. The complement of officers of a regiment; the list of such officers 1864."

Well, things have moved on since 1864. People who know a lot more about communism than I do seem to think a cadre is a single individual. "Like other KPNLF cadres, Mr Thou Thon makes no bones about his dislike of his coalition partners," wrote Paul Quinn Judge in a Guardian story datelined Bangkok "A senior Chinese Communist Party cadre had just been reading Orwell's *1984* when he met Fox Butterfield," wrote Alan Hamilton in The Times, reviewing a book by this Butterfield; and, later in the *same piece* "*the twelfth*-grade cadre has his pass to the privilege stores, which will get him anything from a Sony Trinitron to tickets for The Deer Hunter."

Does this mean the twelfth is the top grade, and a seventh-grade (say) cadre can only get an old black-and-white Murphy and returns for an amateur film of *The Gondoliers*, a third grade can get mustard for his sandwiches and one of those little books where if you flip the pages rapidly you see a little man turning somersaults in the top right-hand corner, and a first-grade can't even get sandwiches? Or are they saying their standards are so high above ours now that a *first-grade* cadre can get anything from the Berlin Philharmonic, live, to a *fully-fitted* yacht with quilted satin bar and anything (or any*body*) else he wants? If this is so, they would do well to remember that it was complements of officers like this who in the past found themselves being ousted, and usually shot.

By cadres of considerably more than one.

Where to spend a weekend in somebody else's garden

GARDENING

ARTHUR HELLYER

THIS WEEKEND the garden visiting season gets into full swing again. Of course thera are some gardens that remain open to the public virtually the year round. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh; Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, West Sussex and The Royal Horticultural Society's garden, Wisley, Surrey among them. But the various charity schemes which between them organise the opening of over 2,000 privately owned gardens and The National Trust and its Scottish counterpart concentrate on an April to October season leaving the winter months clear for gardens and gardeners to recover.

One way and another there appear to be more gardens than ever opening this year. All the familiar guide books are available again, among them, the yellow book of The National Gardens Scheme which now costs 80p, the green book of The Gardener's Sunday Organisation which costs 50p, Scotland's Gardens published by The Queen's Nursing Institute, Scotland, which costs 70p, Tha National Trust's "Properties open in 1983" which costs a mere 35p and the invaluable "Historic Houses, Castles and Gardens in Great Britain and Ireland" which costs £1.50 and includes a good many gardens not to be found in any other publication. All these give dates and times of opening, brief information about the gardens and directions for finding them. *For me they* are essential companions which go with me wherever I travel.

Many of the gardens are so well known that they need no special recommendation from me and one or two are already so overpressed with eager visitors that they positively beg not to be mentioned so I will concentrate today on describing briefly a few gardens that are not as yet so widely known and yet have special charms which should entitle them to more notice.

There is, for example, Sherbourne Park in the tiny village of Sherbourne three miles south of Warwick, a remarkable garden entirely created in the past 23 years by Mrs Smith-Ryland the talented wife of the owner. The house is Georgian and the village church, designed by Gilbert Scott, has an enormous steeple which dominates the garden. Yet it was neither of these buildings but the need for a swimming pool for a young family which set Mrs Ryland-Smith garden making and she is still at it, her latest addition being an arboretum of choice trees around a large artificial lake which she has made as a centrepiece for this and also to capture wonderful reflections of the church. Elsewhere are splendid flower borders, well kept lawns, carefully contrived vistas, even a 20th-century ha-ha to open up unimpeded views across the Warwickshire farmlands. It does not open very frequently but it is in this year's National Gardens' Scheme list for three dates in May, June and September.

Then, a very different kind of treat and one that is much more readily available since it is open from spring until autumn, there are the gardens at Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Again the genius of the place is a lady, the Marchioness of Salisbury, who has breathed fresh life in to the old garden just as she did to the even older garden at Cranborne, Dorset when she lived all the time there. Both gardens abound in old fashioned plants grown in old fashioned ways and yet with a feeling for form and colour which is an almost entirely 20th century phenomenon. Again there are lovely borders but also gardens with intricate patterns and, of course, all manner of sweetly scented and aromatic plants. In commending Hatfield House for a visit at almost any time I also commend Cranborne but especially in June, when the roses, peonies, lilies, honeysuckles, genistas, pansies, pinks and sweet williams are at their very best.

In Scotland there is another garden with an old fashioned look made in our own times for a famous house by a famous *lady gardener. Tyninghame is* the home of the Earl and Countess of Haddington. It has a very big garden with many quite different features but its heart, so far as I am concerned, is a secret garden made out of a tennis court which had ceased to be useful and so was converted into a totally enclosed garden filled with beds planted with old fashioned roses, Celests, Pink Moss, Commandant Beaurepaire, York and Lancaster, Rosa Mundi, Madame Hardy, Bloomfield Abundance, Empress Josephine and many more with lilies, delphiniums and honeysuckles.

I think for this delightful creation Lady Haddington sought the advice of Jim Russell, perhaps our best yet least publicised garden designer whose hand I am constantly discovering in all manner of places including the later Sir James Horlick's remarkable woodland garden on the tiny island of Gigha off the coast of Argyll and the large and varied garden of Cholmondeley Castle on the road from Whitchurch to Tarporley in Cheshire. In that part of the country it is well known and highly regarded but its *fame should* be *much more* widely spread. It has magnificent views, a romantic house and a great variety of plants.

Finally, the oldest garden in London is to be opened regularly to the public this year for the very first time since it was started in 1773. That was the year when The Worshipful Company of Apothecaries acquired the Thames-side site for the Chelsea Physic Garden. It has been cultivated without break ever since and is full of fascinating plants but the public has never been invited to share in its pleasures because it was considered to be too small to withstand the pressure of many visitors. Even now the scheme to open it every Sunday and Wednesday from 2 to 5 pm from April 20 until October 23 is dependent on finding sufficient voluntary helpers to act as guardians. They do not need to be botanists but, in return for their help, the head gardener, James Compton, will spend an hour each month telling them about the garden and pointing out things of special interest and they will be given a booklet and a monthly hand-out *to help them in their work*. I hope the scheme will be a resounding success for I have long wished that more people could enjoy this lovely little botanic garden. The address is 66 Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HS.

BOOKS

Dug-out days BY GEORGE WATSON

Siegfried Sassoon Diaries 1915-1918
edited by Rupert Hart-Davis. Faber & Faber, £10.50. 288 pages

The War Poems of Sassoon
arranged and introduced by Rupert Hart-Davis. Faber & Faber, £5.25. 160 pages

Sherston's Progress
by Siegfried Sassoon. Faber & Faber, £2.25. 150 pages

Not About Heroes
by Stephen Macdonald. Faber & Faber, £3.25. 90 pages

When Siegfried Sassoon enlisted to fight in France in August 1914, he was already nearly 28 years old. His war diary makes him sound enviably young for his age. It is not even entirely clear that so frankly pleasure-loving a man, with his open zest for games and good food, was ever irretrievably aged by the discomforts and horrors of the trenches. On the other band, it took him years more to turn his experiences into the famous fictionalised autobiograpby about *Sherston* that he called memoirs.

Delayed shock may have been the cause, as with others that had fought in France. And yet the war diary that Sir Rupert Hart-Davis bas now edited from notebooks scribbled in dugouts by the light of a single candle is above all an ebullient book. It gives us something new by Sassoon. And along with it, we have a paperback of the third and most neglected volume of his memoirs, an edition of the war poems, and a new play about his friendship with Wilfred Owen which has already been performed at Edinburgh and on television.

The war diary may not add much to Sassoon's literary reputation, which perhaps survives more securely today as a prose-writer than as a poet. But it will be irresistible reading for the growing number of those who are fascinated or obsessed by the war on the Western Front. To read it is rather like seeing old friends as they were once photographed in youth. It includes letters aod poems as well as daily events; and some of the verse turns up later in *War Poems*, a chronological sequence of 113 finished works again edited by Sir Rupert. Add the play, which won a prize last year on the Edinburgh Fringe, and it is clear that interest in Sassoon as a man and as a hero is again in full flood.

Why did Sassoon fictionalise his life, as recorded in the diary and the poetic drafts, into impersonal writings like the finished poems and memoirs? Sir Rupert plausibly suggests that his mind was split, and in a manner anyone in this century can find convincing and even engaging, between a reclusive instinct and a lust for fame. The dilemma reappears in Robert Graves and Christopher Isherwood, and it is inescapable in an age that sees literature as a confessional.

No man whose confessions are worth attending to can lack the sensitivity to wish to keep some, at least, of those confessions well hidden from the world. In 1930, as Mr MacDonald reveals in a note to his remarkable play for two voices, Sassoon wrote to Graves that Sherston represented no more than one-fifth of himself.

Sassoon's concern about his sexual orientation does not figure here, but it is clear that the dilemma of privacy and fame underlies everything that he wrote. The romantic poet exposes himself; but he can hardly afford to reveal everything and at once. "I can never be a great poet, or a great lover," he agonises to himself in the trenches, in a scribbled note he can never have expected posterity to read. Even protests from *his Scottish* hospital against the war and the false hysteria it had engendered at home strike one here as hesitant and ambiguous. The winner of a Military Cross for valour was nothing like a pacifist, and lacked in any case the temperament for waging a public campaign.

Rain, shells, gas, corpses, and bad food mingle in Sassoon's war diary with sudden ecstasies like memories of cricket and hunting, or reading a poem in that little godsend of an anthology, Robert Bridges's *The Spirit of Man*, or describing in loving and intimate terms the interior of Amiens cathedral. The diary, like the poems and the three-volume memoir to which it ultimately gave rise, is a far from depressing book. Even his love of pleasure is a symptom of strength, unabating as it is even in the darkest and dampest places.

The English romantic spirit that was tried to endurance on the Western Front was not found wanting there, after all, and the poetic style that sustained that spirit was nothing like the dilapidated thing that modernist critics would bave us believe. Even Sassoon's drafts have the making of tough little poems, and manage to look as if, at the worst, they might be worth licking into shape. All the more surprising and suspicious, then if intelligent British poets in the 1920s and since should have readily rejected so lively a native tradition of verse in favour of an alien import from America and France.


Siegfried Sassoon by Glyn Philpot, 1917 It is one of the illustrations in "The Image of the Poet: British Poets and their Portraits" (Oxford, £17.50), witty and learned history of poetic portraiture by David Piper

Repertory murder BY WILLIAM WEAVER

Murder in the Title by Simon Brett. Gollancz, £6.95, 191 pages

One of the troubles with a series of adventures involving the same detective is that the author tends to repeat himself. Some of the repetition is inevitable: not every reader will be familiar with the earlier books and so has to be given, at least briefly, the details of the protagonist's marriage, drinking habits, career. Simon Brett is remarkably successful in re-using his actor-investigator Charles Paris without including any inactive matter in his stories. The new Brett-Paris informs us about the actor's declining career, his affectioo for the bottle and for his (estranged) wife; but all this information is made dynamic. It carries the story forward. At the same time, we have the sounds and smells, the ambitions and frustrations of a provincial repertory company, a neat homicide, and an ecoomic, uncontrived, satisfactory solution.

Change in India

BY ALAIN CASS

A Family Affair: India Under Three Prime Ministers
by Ved Mehta. Oxford. £12.50. 166 pages

India Britannica
by Geoffrey Moorhouse. Harvill Press, £12.95. 288 pages

"Corruption remained widespread and policemen continoed to be regarded as potential brutes. Wealth was still grotesquely uneven, with appalling poverty endured by most people and fantastic luxury enjoyed by relatively few. The economy was overburdened with population . . . violence still lurked everywhere . . . in spite of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings . . ."

"The incidence of violent outbreaks everywhere seems to be growing. Hindus kill Muslims, Muslims kill Hindus, villages of Untouchables are razed, landlords attack Untouchables, policemen and lawyers fight, farmers cut off supplies of food and milk, workers go on strike, poor people riot . . ."

The first passage was written of India as the King's colour waited to board ship to the strains of Auld Lang Syne and the Union Jack was lowered for the last time in 1947, marking the end of the British Raj, the end of Britain as a global power and the emergence of a new world order.

The second was written about India today, by an Indian, as the country settles into its natural role as leader of the Third World and what is often referred to, quite accurately, as the world's largest, functioning democracy. Has nothing changed?

The question is particularly relevant today because India's growing pains are acute, as it struggles to preserve a balance between what was good about the British Raj, and what it has decided to keep, and the fissiparous tendencies of the country itself which sharpen the choice, faced by those who rule it, between autocracy and democracy.

The short answer, of course, is that a great deal has changed, most of it for the better. Indian pride and self-reliance bas translated itself into solid achievement. Atomic power stations, more wealth and less poverty, international stature and a growing reservoir of talent; but a great deal bas not: the communal riots in Assam and the Punjab, the persisting poverty, corruption aod the feudal nature of Indian politics.

Much of the frustratioo of this state of affairs is taken out on Mrs Indira Gandhi, India's present Prime Minister, daoghter of Jawaharal Nehru, and the country's first leader. She is accused of perpetuating the dynasty begun by her father, himself chosen by Mahatma Ghandi, the man in the loincloth who defeated the Britisb Raj. She is accused of wanting her son, Rajiv, to succeed her although she has denied this on a number of occasions.

The link between Mrs Gandhi and the freedom struggle runs like a jagged line through modern Indian history, a history determined, not by the democratic process, but by caste and family according to Ved Mebta, the Indian writer, in his latest book *A Family Affair* which is a sequel to his readable *The New India*.

The trouble with Mr Mehta's book, which has a good deal to commend it (not least the first-hand account of this curiously feudal democratic process) is that it tries to substantiate its thesis with too great detail, much of which appears to be hearsay, drawing-room gossip of the kind Indian journalists obsessively pursue from the isolated comfort of their New Delhi offices.

It is a readable enough account of Byzantine politics at the centre of India, but it suffers from a lack of cohesion as it weaves its way from Mrs Gandhi's accession to power in 1969, through the Emergency in 1975-77 to the present day. Mr Mehta has a point, but he fails to make his case.

He does, however, highlight the sad reality that India today is far removed from the India Mahatma Gandhi fought for and hoped it might become after the British left.

The same point is made by Geoffrey Moorhouse in his latest book about India, his second since his brilliant history of Calcutta. This however is a much more thorough piece of work which examines what the British did *to* and *for* India, the evolving relations between the two countries and, ultimately, the legacy of British colonial rule.

Richly illustrated with some magnificent prints of life under the Raj, the book manages to be both serious and entertaining. At the same time it threads a careful path between judgement and analysis, leaving the reader with a vivid picture of the characters and the institutions, the prejudices and the sympathy which were to leave an indelible impression on India.

Lord Curzon arrived as the new Viceroy in 1899 when Indian nationalism was beginning to stir:

> My name is George Nathaniel Curzon
> I am a most superior person.
> My cheeks are pink, my hair is sleek,
> I dine at Blenheim twice a week.

Mr Moorhouse does not tell us who the author of this little ditty was but be tells a great deal else, much of which is original.

Taken up

BY ISABEL QUIGLY

Look at me
by Anita Brookner. Jonathan Cape. £7.50. 192 pages

The Viaduct
by David Wheldon. The Bodley Head. £5.95. 176 pages

Most fictional heroines win, and have the arrogance to match their talent, looks and luck. Frances doeso't. She has money, freedom, intelligence, fairly good looks, a not-bad job, a large flat and an old family retainer. She even has close, loving friends and a possible husband among them. What she lacks is push, aggressiveness, the selfish shove to get her what she wants. She waits passively for fulfilment, for others to bring her happiness, and it doesn't come, and they don't; and because she won't show what she suffers, she is thought (when anyone bothers to think) self-sufficient and serene.

She works in a specialised library with her great friend Olivia, who is disabled, and there meets and is taken up by a couple, Nick and Alix, the epitome of aggressive physical charm. For a time she is spellbound. For a time, too, she seems to have found fulfilment in a tender, scarcely physical love—in fact, in what used to be courtship, the preliminary to physical love. But in the physically impatient present she loses, all round. Throughout the novel, she has been writing a piece of fiction. Is it the novel, or just a thread in it?

Realistically, though it's marvellously exact, there are one or two things I quarrel with. The golden pair are so hideously dislikeable — the wife Alix in particular — that I couldn't believe anyone would adore and admire them.

Then, what age is Frances? We know she isn't young or old, but these are relative words and whether it means late 20s or early 40s we're given no clue; realistically, I find this worrying. But these are quibbles in a very satisfying, bumanly attractive novel, full of the curlicues of art within a mostly credible framework of life, observed with wit and tears, a rare combination of the tender and the astringent.

David Wheldon's *The Viaduct* has won the "Triple First" award given by Bodley Head, Penguin Books and Book Club Associates to eocourage new writing, and high praise from Graham Greene and William Trevor. A short, menacing story set in a half-recognisable world not quite like or quite unlike parts of our own (or, perhaps more, of eastern Europe); it follows a deserted railway line that runs out of a city across a viaduct.

Along the empty tracks, all over the oountry, go "travellers," sometimes known as "vagrants," a shifting (and shifty, suspicious) population of non-citizens, each with his own reasons for being on the go (or on the run?), not quite pursued by authority but not quite free and easy, either.

A lifetime of moving along the tracks, seeking a goal of sorts across the landscape, coming round in circles, ending where you began, a lifetime of meaningless bureaucratic harassment and stark physical difficulties, camp fires and cold and thirst. . . .

At first, with its hero called "A." and its obscure rituals, it seemed too close to Kafka; almost parody; but gradually it gripped me into belief, then to a certain awe.


David Wheldon: triple award winner

Signs

Rates of Exchange by Malcolm Bradbury. Secker and Warburg £7.95. 310 pages

Here is a brilliant new novel by the author of *This History Man*. Mr Bradbury has shifted his sights from the provincial English campus to the lecture tour abroad under the distant aegis of the British Council. He has devised an imaginary Eastern European country complete with its own language to perplex his hero, a lecturer in linguistics. In addition to the hilarious comic action, Mr Bradbury makes some smart points about words as signs. Highly recommended.

ANTHONY CURTIS

Shonfield's view

BY GEOFFREY OWEN

The Use of Public Power
by Andrew Shonfield. Edited by Zuzanna Shonfield. Oxford. £19.95. 140 pages

One of the themes of Andrew Shonfield's *Modern Capitalism*, published in 1965, was the use of public power — through nationalised companies like IRI and ENI in Italy, through planning and direct intervention as in France—to promote economic and social objectives. An active government was seen—even in the UK where the traditions and machinery of intervention were less well developed—as essential to the success of the mixed economy.

At that time the post-war economic miracle was in full swing. Fifteen years later Shonfield began work on a new book which was to examine the balance of public and private power after the economic shocks of the 1970s. At the time of his death in January 1981 three chapters were completed, others were in draft. The text now appears for the first time, edited by his widow. Even in this incomplete form the book contains many valuable insights and presents a challenging critique to currently fashionable economic theories.

Shonfield is sceptical of the argument that the economic malaise of the 1970s can be ascribed to the "excesses" of the 1960s—too much welfare, too much union power, too much pump-priming by governments. While he accepts some parts of the monetarist analysis—the emphasis on labour market rigidities, and on the importance of controlling the money supply—he attacks the spirit of exclusiveness which seems to be inherent in it:

"Its practitioners [he writes] appear to be subject to an irresistible urge to assert, in a style reminiscent of more ancient doctrines: money supply is great and there is no force other than the money supply."

Shonfield describes how Japan used a form of incomes inflation under control. That experience gives no support to the view, "that such efforts are by their nature ephemeral and are fairly promptly offset by an equal and opposite movement which is bound to undo the temporary good work in the longer term."

He argues that government can and should intervene in the role of bonest broker, who identifies the common desire of apparent adversaries and provides the vehicle for its realisation by means of agreed collective action.

In Shonfield's view the welfare state, far from contributing to the economic malaise, has demonstrated "a capacity for making the transition to slower economic growth and higher unemployment politically manageable." Rigidities in the labour market should be rectified, not by dismantling the welfare state, but by adapting it.

The principal and timely message from Shonfield's book is his attack on the supposed impotence of government. This view has in turn led to a lack of interest in concerted international policy-making. He points to the lower propensity on the part of the U.S. to take economic risks and to give a lead to the rest of the world.

While he acknowledges the failures of "fine tuning," he does not accept the proposition that "the market" will manage almost any problem better than a government.

Shonfield calls for a more interventionist, risk-taking, entrepreneurial state:

"The forms of intervention required for short-term demand management will tend to be more tactical and discriminatory, in order to meet the new problems created by changes in the world economy. This follows from the fact that it is more difficult to exercise control by means of traditional economic devices on societies which have become both more affluent and more open."

In our present difficulties it is good to have his able, albeit

WORLD VALUE OF THE DOLLAR

Bank of America NT & SA, Economics Department, London

The table below gives the rates of exchange for the U.S. dollar against various currencies as of Wednesday March 30 1983. The exchange rates listed are middle rates between buying and selling rates as quoted between banks, unless otherwise indicated. All currencies are quoted in foreign currency units per one U.S. dollar except in certain specified areas. All rates quoted are indicative. They are not based on, and are not intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions.

Bank of America NT & SA does not undertake to trade in all listed foreign currencies, and neither Bank of America NT & SA nor the Financial Times assume responsibility for errors.

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR
Afghanistan	Afghani (O)	50.60
Albania	Lek	6.2344
Algeria	Dinar	4.722
Andorra	Fr. Franc	7.2225
	Sp. Peseta	135.55
Angola	Kwanza	30.214
Antigua	E. Caribbean $	2.70
Argentina	Peso (f)	66385.
Australia	Dollar	1.1558
Austria	Schilling	17.05
Azores	Port. Escudo	97.50
Bahamas	Dollar	1.00
Bahrain	Dinar	0.377
Balearic Is.	Sp. Peseta	136.65
Bangladesh	Taka	24.12
Barbados	Dollar	2.0113
Belgium	Franc (C)	48.11
	Franc (F)	49.05
Belize	Dollar	2.00
Benin	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Bermuda	Dollar	1.00
Bhutan	Ind. Rupee	9.9251
Bolivia	Peso (c)	44.00
	Peso (f)	196.00
Botswana	Pula	1.0851
Brazil	Cruzeiro	416.50
Brunei	Dollar	2.027
Bulgaria	Lev	0.965
Burma	Kyat	7.593
Burundi	Franc	90.00
Cameroun Rp.	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Canada	Dollar	1.2291
Canary Is.	Sp. Peseta	135.55
Cape Verde Is.	Escudo	62.545
Cayman Is.	Dollar	0.835
Cen. Af. Rep.	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Chad	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Chile	Peso (O)	74.00
China	Renminbi Yuan	1.9941
Colombia	Peso (O)	74.01
Comoros	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Congo P'ple.Rep.of	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Costa Rica	Colon (O)	40.22
	Colon	40.00
Cuba	Peso	0.8531
Cyprus	Pound*	1.9223
Czechoslovakia	Koruna (O)	9.10
Denmark	Krone	8.605
Djibouti Rp. of	Franc	177.72
Dominica	E. Caribbean $	2.70
Domin. Rep.	Peso	1.00
Ecuador	Sucre (O)	42.00
	Sucre (F)	79.50
Egypt	Pound* (O)	1.4282
	Pound* (O)	1.2136
El Salvador	Colon	2.50
Eq'tl Guinea	Ekuele	272.10
Ethiopia	Birr (O)	2.0529
Faeroe Is.	Dan. Krone	8.605
Falkland Is.	Pound*	1.4565
Fiji	Dollar	1.0087
Finland	Markka	5.4695
France	Franc	7.2622
Fr. C'ty in Af.	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Fr. Guiana	Franc	7.2625
Fr. Pac. Is.	C.F.P. Franc	130.45
Gabon	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Gambia	Dalasi	2.7436
Germany (E)	Ostmark (O)	2.424
Germany (W)	Mark	2.424
Ghana	Cedi	2.75
Gibraltar	Pound*	1.4565
Greece	Drachma	83.97
Greenland	Dan. Krone	8.605

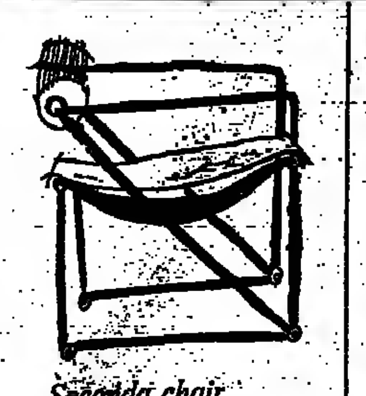
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR
Grenada	E. Caribbean $	2.70
Guadaloupe	Franc	7.2295
Guam	U.S. $	1.00
Guatemala	Quetzal	1.00
Guinea Bissau	Peso	40.6544
Guinea Rep.	Syli	22.9205
Guyana	Dollar	3.0045
Haiti	Gourde	5.00
Honduras Rep.	Lempira	2.00
Hong Kong	Dollar	6.727
Hungary	Forint	39.8703
Iceland	Krone	21.00
India	Rupee	9.9651
Indonesia	Rupiah	970.00
Iran	Rial (O)	85.10
Iraq	Dinar	0.31
Irish Rep	Punt*	1.2085
Israel	Shekel	32.56
Italy	Lira	1444.50
Ivory Coast	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Jamaica	Dollar (o)	1.7834
	Dollar (f) (1)	2.655
Japan	Yen	239.57
Jordan	Dinar	0.3396
Kampuchea	Riel	n.a.
Kenya	Shilling	13.0537
Kiribati	Aust. Dollar	1.1558
Korea (Nth)	Won	0.94
Korea (Sth)	Won	753.60
Kuwait	Dinar	0.2922
Lao P'pls D. Rep	Kip	10.00
Lebanon	Pound	4.16
Lesotho	Loti	1.0965
Liberia	Dollar	1.00
Libya	Dinar	0.2961
Liechtenst'n	Sw. Franc	2.0785
Luxembourg	Lux Franc	48.11
Macao	Pataca	6.9927
Madagascar D. R.	Franc	384.00
Madeira	Port. Escudo	97.50
Malawi	Kwacha	1.1225
Malaysia	Ringgit	2.299
Maldive Is.	Rufiyaa (O)	2.95
	Rufiyaa (M)	7.05
Mali Rp.	Franc	726.22
Malta	Pound*	2.3304
Martinique	Franc	7.2625
Mauritania	Ouguiya	53.55
Mauritius	Rupee	10.4504
Mexico	Peso(5)	154.00
	Peso (6)(cont'd)	107.92
Miquelon	Fr. Franc	7.2625
Monaco	Fr. Franc	7.2625
Mongolia	Tugrik (O)	3.3565
Montserrat	E. Caribbean $	2.70
Morocco	Dirham	6.6025
Mozambique	Matica	41.5661
Namibia	S.A. Rand	1.0965
Nauru Is.	Aust. Dollar	1.1558
Nepal	Rupee	13.20
Netherlands	Guilder	2.7285
Neth. Ant'les	Guilder	1.80
New Zealand	Dollar	1.5417
Nicaragua	Cordoba	10.05
Niger Rp.	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Nigeria	Naira (O)	0.6993
Norway	Krone	7.1295
Oman, Sultanate of	Rial	0.3455
Pakistan	Rupee	12.8878
Panama	Balboa	1.00
Papua N.G.	Kina	0.8481
Paraguay	Guarani (o) (2)	126.00
	Guarani (m) (2)	160.00

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR
Peru	Sol	1209.46
Philippines	Peso	9.7465
Pitcairn Is.	N.Z. Dollar	1.5417
Poland	Zloty (O)	85.85
Portugal	Escudo	97.50
Port Timor	Escudo	n.a.
Puerto Rico	U.S. $	1.00
Qatar	Riyal	3.6397
Reunion Ile de la	Fr. Franc	7.2625
Romania	Leu (O)	4.47
Rwanda	Franc	92.84
St. Christopher	E. Caribbean $	2.70
St. Helena	Pound*	1.4565
St. Lucia	E. Caribbean $	2.70
St. Pierre	Fr Franc	7.2625
St. Vincent	E. Caribbean $	2.70
Samoa (Western)	Tala	1.5502
Samoa (Am.)	U.S. $	1.00
San Marino	It. Lira	1444.50
Sao Tome & Principe DR	Dobra	42.0151
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	3.45
Senegal	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Seychelles	Rupee	6.7173
Sierra Leone	Leone (o) (3)	1.25
	Leone (c) (3)	2.455
Singapore	Dollar	2.097
Solomon Is.	Dollar	1.13
Somali Rep.	Shilling	15.3204
South Africa	Rand	1.0965
Spain	Peseta	135.55
Span. Ports in N. Africa	Sp. Peseta	136.56
Sri Lanka	Rupee	22.97
Sudan Rep.	Pound*	0.75
Surinam	Guilder	1.785
Swaziland	Lilangeni	1.0965
Sweden	Krona	7.5275
Switzerland	Franc	2.0785
Syria	Pound	3.953
Taiwan	Dollar (O)	40.01
Tanzania	Shilling	9.72
Thailand	Baht	23.00
Togo Rep.	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Tonga Is.	Pa'anga	1.1558
Trinidad & Tobago	Dollar	2.402
Tunisia	Dinar	0.6561
Turkey	Lira	203.90
Turks & Caicos	U.S. $	1.00
Tuvalu	Aust. Dollar	1.1558
Uganda	Shilling (1st)	115.72
	Shilling (2nd)	248.00
Utd. A'b. Emir.	Dirham	3.6717
Utd. Kingdom	Pound Sterling*	1.4555
Upper Volta	C.F.A. Franc	363.125
Uruguay	Peso	32.62
U.S.S.R.	Rouble	0.728
Vanuatu	Vatu	117.374
	Aust. Dollar	1.1558
Vatican	Lira	1444.50
Venezuela	Bolivar (7)	4.2937
	Bolivar (8)	6.00
	Bolivar (9)	8.07
Vietnam	Dong (O)	9.18
Virgin Is. Br.	U.S. $	1.00
Virgin Is. U.S.	U.S. $	1.00
Yemen	Rial	4.595
Yemen PDR	Dinar	0.3453
Yugoslavia	Dinar	75.6588
Zaire Rp.	Zaire	5.8953
Zambia	Kwacha (4)	1.1885
Zimbabwe	Dollar	0.9804

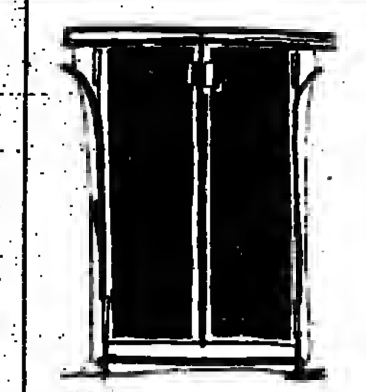
n.a. Not available. (m) Market rate. * U.S. dollars per National Currency unit. (o) Official rate. (c) Commercial rate. (f) Financial rate. (1) Jamaica two-tier FX rate exists, Comm and Fin. (2) Paraguay operates a two-tier system, e=imports, exports and government transactions, m=all other transactions. (3) Sierra Leone: (o) for secondary imports: Commercial fortnightly auction of FX. (4) Zambia: Jan 2 20 per cent devaluation against SDR. (5) Mexico: Freemarket rate. (6) Mexico: Controlled rate covering imports, exports and some debt repayments. (7) Venezuela: three-tier system has developed. This rate is for all essential imports. (8) Venezuela—Non-essential import rate. (9) Venezuela: Floating rate for tourists. (10) Ecuador devalued by 21 per cent.

HOW TO SPEND IT by Lucia van der Post

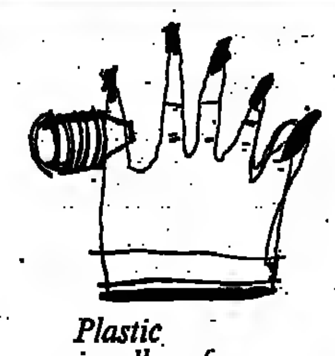
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GOOD DESIGN?



Seconda chair designed by Mario Botta, 1982



Witney living room furniture designed by Ron Carter, 1981



Plastic jewellery from the Sixties

Paper chair designed by Peter Murdoch, 1964

'Primitive' fabric designed by Timney Fowler

Maxima chair designed by Max Clendinning, 1965

WHATEVER Happened To "Good Design" is the general title of an exhibition that opened on Tuesday at Heal's of 196 Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 and which I urge anybody with any interest in the subject at all to visit. The title appeals to me enormously—so much so that I remember well writing a long article on the subject on this page six years ago.

When I was an eager, new journalist in the Sixties, good design, what it was, how to recognise it, encourage it, its generally accepted worthwhileness, were all seen as eminently important and, above all, serious issues. Every newspaper of note had what was called a design correspondent. I myself wrote screeds every week on the subject.

Somewhere along the line the whole picture changed. Firstly, I think that one of the things that happened was that there was a certain amount of overkill. It was so evidently much more desirable that things should be well designed than badly designed that it hardly seemed to warrant all the acres of newsprint and magazine space that was taken up to state the obvious.

Having agreed almost universally that good design was "A Good Thing" the debate then moved on to discussing what good design actually was and this was when the dust really began to fly. There seemed to come about a polarisation between the "goodies," who seemed unfairly to have purloined the right to moral rectitude, and the "baddies" whose design was sometimes downright bad but was sometimes also quite amusing and even desirable. It was categorised as "bad" because it didn't obey what were then the accepted cardinal rules of "form should follow function," of avoiding all decoration unless it had a functional role to play and, above all, of being in "good taste."

What happened after that was that having tried to swallow the orthodox line, most of us—from people with a professional interest in the subject, to the public who vote with their purse—found it stuck in the throat. The public just seemed to rebel and decide to go its own way. A groundswell from the collective unconscious seemed to say "to hell with the experts, we no longer trust them."

With one accord, public and designers alike, rejected the barrenness of the rational approach, the over-intellectualised approach to what we should surround ourselves with in our daily lives. Above all, the great blessing of those years of the early Sixties when the Beatles showed us that to be a fine and successful musician you didn't need to go to the Royal College of Music (and you didn't need to be very hright to draw the analogy and realise that to be a designer of note it wasn't always necessary to have gone to the Royal College of Art), was that there were no longar any moral imperatives about the matter. It was no longer morally better to prefer one toaster to another—you liked what you liked and that was the end of the matter.

We all began to see the fun that could be had when designers were released from the old constraints and began "to look to popular culture for their source and inspiration."

What we all turned out to like were things infinitely various. None of it was any longer amenable to any rules. We liked things slim, dark, rational and technological. We also turned out to like things strange, quirky and one-off. We took to the rustic, enchanting nostalgic world of Laura Ashley. We also embraced tha retrospective looks of the Fifties and borrowed bits of the stark new world of High Tech. There were no longer any safe refuges. Designers bad to go by some kind of gut feeling (flair?) and the result is that the design world is now a lot more fun, much more interesting but a whole lot less certain.

So anybody interested in what is happening to design today should take a trip along to Heal's, sometime between now and June 11 when the exhibition ends.

There they will be able to see the chief influences at work today. On the ground floor is a section given over to showing the first signs of the break-away from conventional design, most of it part of the Pop movement of the Sixties. I well remember writing about Peter Murdoch's folded paper chair when it first came out—a startlingly innovative (and inexpensive) design at the time. Today it is no longer in production and the example you will see there comes by courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

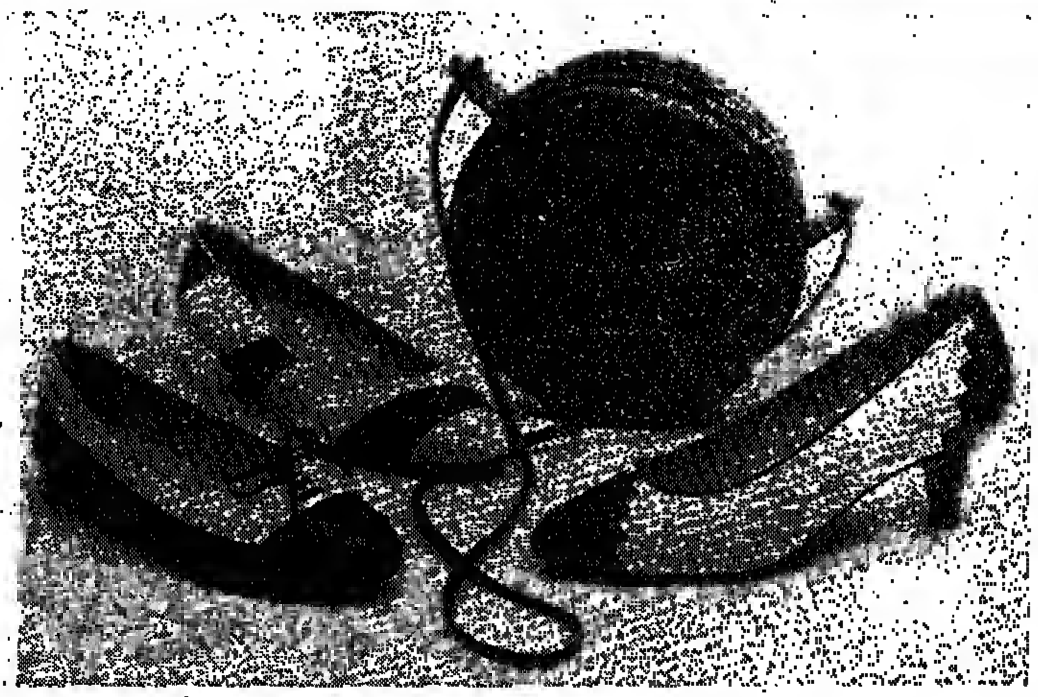
"Italian Style" will show just what the Italians are up to—examples from the irreverent, anarchist world of Memphis to the cool high chic of Castiglione.

High Tech is there, too— in tha basement. It never seems to bave caught the popular fancy but as a minority movement it has a role to play.

Then there is "Fun, Fancy and Delight" on the first floor—as near a statement of my own belief of what design should be all about as it is possible to achieve. Follow this up by looking at classic modern design as it is still understood in the section called "Can Form Still Follow Function" and then on to another section dear to my heart—"The Craftsman's Contribution." Much of the creative input in today's design world comes from the craftsman—they are, after all, pre-eminently in a position to experiment in a way that industry cannot, they can explore new forms and enjoy the luxury of individuality. Finally, on the second floor is "New Looks From Old Styles" a look at the influence of nostalgia on some of the products we see around us today.

Most of the furniture and objects on show at Heal's will be for sale but, of course, some like Peter Murdoch's paper chair are now museum pieces and will be there to stimulate, interest and excite, but not to be bought.

NO MEAN FEET



CAN there be anybody left in England who doesn't know that Jasper Conran, son of Sir Terence and "Superwoman" Shirley, is one of the youngest, most talented fashion designers we have? He seems to be just 22 but when you look at his client list (Candice Bergen, Bianca Jagger, HRH The Princess of Wales, HRH The Duchess of Kent, Maggie Smith among others) it hardly seems possible. There is scarcely a fashion editor who doesn't either own a Jasper Conran or aspire to owning one.

As if all that wasn't enough, Jasper Conran has now moved into the world of shoes.

His first range of shoes hits the shops this spring and they seem to me to be everything one might have hoped for. Simple, up-to-the-minute, but not aggressively so, they are easy to wear and easy on the eye.

There seem to be two main colour lines—choose between pale pastels in colours like pink, beige, powder blue or pistachio and the stronger, bolder colours of bright red and blue, often combined with white. All the styles sport low to medium heels and all are in a price bracket which though not as cheap as our chaapest chains is still well below that of most imports of similar sophistication. Most of the shoes sell for roughly £35.

There is a series of bags to go with the shoes. They, as you might expect, come in matching colours and have the same hallmarks of simple, uncluttered lines—plain clutch bags or elegant round ones. Prices of the bags vary from £19 to £59.

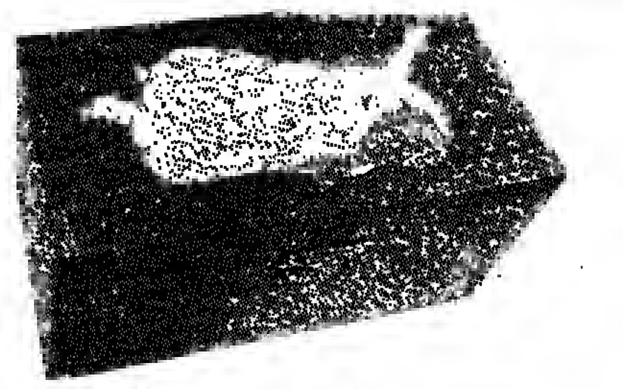
The whole new collection has been made possible through the Ward White group and its chairman, Philip Birch, who believed that what Britain needed was a range with flair and style backed by a name that carried conviction.

The result is in the shops now and you can see just a small sample of the Jasper Conran classics in the picture above. The two-tone casual shoe with the tie, is in navy and white or red and white or tan and white and costs £37.

The striped court shoe has a 1¼ ins heel and comes in the same colour combinations, £39. The geometric patterned shoe, in the same colourings, has a 2¼ ins stacked heel and costs £37. The shoulder bag in the background is in red, white, navy or black kid, £29.

Find the Jasper Conran collection at Roxy, 25 Kensington Church Street, London, W8; Chic, 74-82 Heath Street, Hampstead, NW3; Clouds, 24 Thacket Street, Ipswich, Suffolk; La Chasseure, 167 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands; Jakes, 45 Bond Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

LAKELAND CRAFT SHOW



LIVING IN London, as I do, it is difficult to do other parts of the country justice and to report on the many and varied enterprises that spring up all the time. However, anybody living in the Lake District or visiting that area in the next few weeks will be delighted to hear that the Lakeland Craftsmen's Guild will be having what promises to be a very fine exhibition at the 16th century Dacre Hall, Lanercost Priory in Cumbria.

The standard of work sounds to be very high with people of the calibre of Julia Manheim (a fine jeweller), Mike Davis (who does stained glass windows), Lynne Curran (a weaver) and William Jefferies (another weaver) all contributing.

Besides looking at the exhibits and buying if anything takes your fancy, there will be chances for visitors to talk to the makers about their craft and those who are really just looking for a good cream tea will be able to do that as well.

Almost all the crafts will be represented, from ceramics through to marquetry (the wooden marquetry box photographed here is by Marshal Stockwell, The Old Chapel, Tindale Fell, Brampton, Cumbria) and some traditional hardwood furniture by Ian Laval.

The Easter Show, as the Lakeland craftspeople call it, will be on from now until April 16 from 10 am to 6 pm. It sounds like a fine chance for those who live in that part of the world to see a wide variety of excellent work all under one roof.

COOKING BY COURSES

BY JUDY WHALE

HAVE YOU a dithering daughter, a hungry but unhandy son, a husband who mournfully forages for bread and cheese when you're away, or a dinner party next week for which you can't fish out that freezer casserole yet again?

The answer may be a cookery course. They vary from full-time, living-in year-long stints at £6,000 or so, to afternoon demonstrations at a fraction of the price. Here are a few courses that may fit your bill (you can further taste the flavour by dipping into the cookery books produced by some of their creators).

Your daughter may have a year or a term to spare, but if she's really havering, think twice about sending her to a long course at any of the schools. They all stress the dedication and the thorough groundwork involved, and none of them welcomes the dilettante. "If you don't want to work, don't come," advises one teacher crisply (though faced with the unmotivated, they'll cope more than nobly).

CORDON BLEU SCHOOLS

114 Marylebone Lane, London W1 and Winkfield Place, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire.

These could be called the brand leaders. Gone is the limp debby image; full-time London students may have titles or pink hair, but they're expected to slog at practical cookery. This culminates in the end-of-year buffet lunch which dazzles parents and other hill-footers. The Winkfield curriculum is wider (flower arranging, secretarial skills) but the cookery training is the same. For girls aged 17-19 who relish the boarding-school ambiance. Holiday courses for their elders, and demonstration days (with lunch) for dedicated hostesses (hurry, they sell out fast).

LEITH'S SCHOOL OF FOOD AND WINE

36, Notting Hill Gate, London W11.

This school reflects the flair of its founder, Prue Leith—she runs a restaurant, caters, writes and also masterminded the rescue of British Rail food. High-powered commercial enterprise training cooks for careers, the only one to deal with wine in depth too. Year-long A to Z diploma course, shorter intensive stints for those with stamina. The school is particularly proud of its 11-week advanced course, open to new developments in the culinery world. Its curriculum is deliberately not completely cut and dried beforehand. Enthusiasts of all types welcomad, especially "nice out-going people who enjoy being on Christian-name terms."

TANTE MARIE SCHOOL

Woodham House, Carlton Road, Woking, Surrey

Tante Marie leans on its learning ethos, the how and why of cooking—"we don't just teach recipes." Reckons it prepares students to emerge victorious from culinary crises. Teachers all professionally qualified (ie, to work in state scools or colleges of further edncation). Founder Iris Syrett did chocolate work for the French embassy—her legacy is apparent in the school's cake-making and its petits fours. Mature students sympathetically received.

LE PETITE CUISINE

50 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey

Lyn Hall, the principal, has a passion for food, refined by working with chefs at the Connaught Hotel and Cipriani's inter alia. Educates a student to eat as a gourmet as well as cook like one. (You prepare four dinner-party menus a week, with tutorial post-mortem after each.) Prized feature is the Anthony Blake photo library: open to students, and Mrs Hall draws on it for her lectures, which are much patronised by home economists and food photographers.

All these schools also run shorter do-it-yourself courses to suit what time and cash you can spare, ranging from evening series or a few days at £60, to a generous term at nearly £2,000 (hopeful or despairing men welcomed, and not always outnumbered). There are one-off demonstrations too—Lynn Hall's (often given by top-line chefs) and Winkfield's perhaps take the rosette.

ELIZABETH RUSSELL

01-947 2144.

Mrs Russell gives cookery lessons and no quarter to slackers, however rich or famous: her select band of students cram a year's work into 10 weeks. They and Mrs Russell work together to produce complete meals—and do the washing-up—every day. She believes in turning out cooks who can earn their living and use their initiative. A Frenchwoman of the old school, she's a devotee of simple, well-presented food, and an admirer of Elizabeth David.

●

For those who want it straight from the horse's mouth, there are courses run by distinguished cooks/chefs on their own ground.

HORN OF PLENTY

Gulworthy, Tavistock, Devon

Here Sonia Stevenson's magic touch rubs off on the acolytes at her three and four-day Courses for Sauces. She gives them her undivided attention (she'd rather only have three than the advertised six) while they try to match up to the gastronomic poems they've tasted in the restaurant. And there's nothing peripheral about sauces: everything needs one, not just the goose.

MILLER HOWE HOTEL

Lake Windermere, Cumbria

Owner John Tovey runs four-day working holidays for cosseted guests, who watch his adroit performance and sample admirable results in the dining-room later. Hallmark is informality and friendly give-and-take. Mainly demonstrations with plenty of good licks all round; but you tackle pastry yourself and offer constructive criticism after dinner—Mr T. says *he* learns a lot too.

●

Other attractive options involve visits to country houses.

MRS LAURENCE'S COOKERY COURSES

The Old Manor House, Stawell, Bridgwater, Somerset.

These courses are short, sharp and effective: you stay in her handsome house and cook furiously for three or four days. Courses for students and hostesses of all grades take in economy dishes and freezer food. New advanced series emphasising *nouvelle cuisine* has only four students, who get maximum individual attention. Mrs Laurence will also arrange courses for groups of eight at unscheduled times.

FARTHINGHOE FINE WINE AND FOOD

The Old Rectory, Old Lane, Farthinghoe, Brackley, Northdnts.

No mean operator when she became the Sunday Times Cook of Britain in 1973, Nicola Cox has since set up in business with her husband Simon, a wine merchant. You can buy wine and her frozen dishes to amaze dinner guests, and her day demonstrations should do a lot to improve your repertoire. Mercifully down-to-earth approach from housewife's point of view plus the fact that her recipes really work in your own kitchen, are all part of her appeal. Gives Magimix teach-ins at her home, and charity demonstrations all over the country.

CHENIES MANOR HOUSE

Chenies, Bucks.

Alistair and Elizabeth Macleod Matthews' miniature stately home, the 15th-century Chenies Manor House, sports a priest's hole, antique dolls, a labyrinth and a physic garden (herbs). Between May and September there are day courses on Entertaining Your Friends (food, wine, flower-arranging). Mary Berry, Michael Smith, Sheila Macqueen and a local wine merchant are among this year's pundits: you sample their talents, the house's delights, a wine-tasting and lunch (featuring herbs from the garden). Coffee and biscuits to kick off, afternoon tea at the end.

ARTS

When Britain ruled

Was there ever a time when British cinema led the world, even briefly, in colour, invention and emotional flamboyance? Don't all cry *Chariots of Fire* and *Gandhi*—too soon for history to decide their places in the pantheon—cast your minds further back. The year is 1948: the film is *The Red Shoes*. And Rank Video has done the world a service by issuing a truly wonderful video-transfer of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's masterwork: one of the most magical slices of hothouse movie baroque this side of *Gone With The Wind*.

VCR despairers, besieged by the video viruses of fuzz and poor definition and jet-trail horizontal lines, should gaze at this copy and marvel. Here we have ballerina heroine Moira Shearer in gleaming visual hi-fi—without a blip to call her own—from carrot curls to titular crimson footwear, as she dances her feature-length romantic *pas de trois* between composer—beloved Marius Goring and jealous ballet-master "Lermontov," played by Anton Walbrook. And here we have the purples and golds and silvers of Hein Heckroth's memorable Gothic-surreal stage sets (which make *An American In Paris* look like a biscuit tin) gloriously reproduced.

VIDEO

NIGEL ANDREWS

The Pressburger-scripted story of love versus art, romantic bliss v career fulfilment, is high-density schmaltz, but as sculpted by director Powell it has superb bravado. It's no surprise that Powell—who was virtually Britain's Filmmaker Laureate in the 1940s—has been idolised in recent years by such as Scorsese, Coppola and Fassbinder.

He makes the camera as nimble and dynamic as a ballet-dancer—note the virtuoso spinning shot near the end that follows Shearer down a spiral staircase—and the delirious saturated hues are clear forefathers of the colour-play in Scorsese's *Mean Streets* or Fassbinder's *Lola*. With tip-top performances, especially by the suave and leonine Walbrook, this is the video-cassette of the month, and quite possibly of the year.

For those daunted by the avalanche of new releases spilling each week into the cassette market, Catalyst Video's *Movie Video Magazine* is well worth seeking out. This quarterly, hour-long guide to current cassettes is itself a cassette. Introduced and compered by David Castell, it's an informative, don't-stop-for-breath conducted tour through news, reviews and interviews.

One moment you will be watching Britain's leading stunt men describing (and demonstrating) their work; the next you'll be eyeing mini-trailers from the new feature films on video; the next sampling great Golden Turkeys of the cinema now cassette-ised (gasp in disbelief at *Plan 9 From Outer Space*); and the next having the pleasure of Freddie Laker or Ken Livingstone introducing highlights from "My Kind of Movie." Laker's is *Airplane* (!) and Livingstone's turn out to be *Godfather Part 2*, with its ruthless account of GLC-style intrigues in Italian-American high society. *Movie* may be rented at a modest price and is well worth the investment.

Meanwhile, to take you through and beyond the Easter silly season — astonish your friends! Unpleasantly surprise your enemies! *The Incredible Magic of Magic Vol 1* (Magnetic Video) is an example of the "incredible disappearing video footage" trick. This guide round current conjuring practice by an ingratiating young American in a striped shirt (Bob Yorburg) is advertised on its box-jacket as being 53 minutes long and turns out to be only half that time. Is this a triumph of Yorburg's sleight-of-hand?

Never mind. In the scramblingly short space still available you can learn how to finger-palm coins and paper handkerchiefs, make a paper cup disappear, and keep smiling while the end-credits roll 25 minutes ahead of time.

Finally, to further commemorate Easter and to keep the children entertained (or discreetly distracted), let me commend *The Bugs Bunny Road Runner Movie* (Warner Home Video). For the first time ever, the adenoidal mega-star is interviewed in his palatial Carrot Palace, Beverly Hills, from where he comperes us through an anthology of his best cartoon adventures; including such classics as *What's Opera Doc?* and *Hare Tonic*.

Nigel Andrews considers Parsifal 'a movie experience no film or opera-lover should resist,' and easily the pick of this week's cinema

A blast at operatic conservatism

Parsifal (PG) Lumiere
Pixote (18) Gate, Notting Hill and Classic, Oxford Street
Smithereens (15) Screen on the Green and ABC, Edgware Road
Lovesick (15) Warner West End.

Wagner's *Parsifal*, that astonishing four-hour cry of wounded beauty and dissolving and resolving harmonies, disparaged by many as the composer's late and senile bow to Christianity, is the opera no one quite knows what to do with. Should one take it "straight" and devotional, or should one contort it bravely with "interpretation" and agnostic modernism?

Hans-Jurgen Syberberg has set it in, on and around Wagner's nose. I kid you not. On a gigantic, rockey-textured, limestone-pale death mask of the Maestro—which splits and shifts and re-forms scene by scene—a cast miming to pre-recorded voices play out this mighty salvation epic. The only visible opera stars are basses Robert Lloyd and Aage Haugland as Gurnemanz and Klingsor, acting to their own voices.

Elsewhere Edith Clever (Rohmer's *Marquise Von O*) plays stricken, knot-haired Kundry to Yvonne Minton's mezzo voice-off: Armin Jordan (who also conducted the music with the Monte Carlo Symphony Orchestra) perspires and agonises as Amfortas to Wolfgang Schöne's bass-baritone: and Parsifal himself is bisexually incarnated, first by handsome Michael Kutter—before the fateful kiss—and then by comely Karin Krick. Both mime to the singing of East German tenor Reiner Goldberg.

Already I can hear the patter of tiny feet stampeding from the imaginary auditorium. But don't, I plead, be so easily put to flight. The movie is a sustained and astounding burst of filmic invention. Syberberg, the German image-culture who collaged together *Ludwig: Requiem For a Virgin King* and *Hitler* from torn pickings of European painting, German Romanticism, newsreels, puppet-shows, studio smoke, bric-a-brac and dazzling front-projected cycloramas, swoops upon history and culture no less raveningly here.

Parsifal is another gunfight at the OK collage. But what impresses is not the endless fly-by eclecticism—Wagner dolls lean against rocks, a giant broken phallus stands sentry in Klingsor's castle, Kundry is part Christ part Millais's Ophelia, images of gaunt architectural beauty (from Bayreuth to St Peter's) glow and change on the backcloth—but the coherence of Syberberg's argument that *Parsifal* itself is a ritual. And a ritual no less racked and debilitated and in need of a thawing redemption than the Grail sacrament that crowns Acts 1 and 3.

Thus Syberberg deliberately identifies the tortured Amfortas with Wagner himself. (He's acted by the music's conductor and his close-ups are shot in a death-pale recumbent profile that mimics the death-mask itself). The concert-hall "set piece" status of the Good Friday music is acerbically highlighted with a looming cyclorama image of Jordan conducting and with boxed polyanthi strewing the forest instead of wild vernal blooms. And when the Grail Hall is entered in Act 3, it's through a monstrous blow-up projection of Wagner's famous quilted smoking-jacket: "Hid in its protective shrine" sings the chorus at this point, referring to the Grail sanctuary. But the words are equally applicable to Bayreuth and to jealously devotional Wagner traditions.

But Syberberg's film is not only a blast at operatic conservatism and the high-church approach to art. It's a clear and brilliant "re-metaphoring" of the whole drama. The unisex Parsifal makes total sense if we understand that Wagner's innocent fool, who grows wise in a clap of insight and recognises the perils of heedless lust, is redeemed by his sex-transcending compassion. And the isolating of Amfortas's wound as a separate object—a grisly bleeding chunk on a cushion—is a vividly logical extension of the trans-substantiation notion of the Eucharist.

Syberberg even spreads a broader historical carpet under the music drama's feet. The hinted identification of Titurel with Ludwig II (actor Martin Speer wears the star-specked blue cloak with ermine collar from Syberberg's earlier film) and the subtle shades of Nazism that cling to Klingsor, with his black leather greatcoat and his stormtroopers, suggest that *Parsifal* also has prophetic power as a redemptive chronicle of Germany itself.

Fine singing and conducting, and electrifying acting from Jordan and Clever, make this a movie experience no film or opera-lover should resist. It runs for only three weeks: hasten now.

*

Hector Babenco's *Pixote* (pronounced Pishotsh) unfolds in a present-day Brazil that has been dragged kicking and screaming back into postwar Latin neo-realism. We are plunged into the shadow-streaked hell of a reform school in Sao Paolo (out of *Shoeshine* by *Los Olvidados*) to watch the adventures of tiny, plucky, big-eyed Pixote: who with his flattened bruiser's face, doe eyes and precocious swagger, is the mini-macho mascot among his penal peers. The latter include glue-sniffers, pot-smokers and just-plain-trouble-makers, liberally sprinkled with transvestites and rapists.

After unceremoniously mopping the floor with the audience in the early scenes, Babenco then ties them to the ankles of Pixote and three friends when they break out from the reformatory and try to survive in the blinking night-life of Rio. There is a terrible rash of pimps. There's a motherly prostitute who pities and suckles the exhausted, starving Pixote: (didn't John Steinbeck plant a flag on this scene in *The Grapes of Wrath?*) And there is the sense of a journey made with a lot of doomy, sulphurous social indignation but not much art and even less variety of effect or affect.

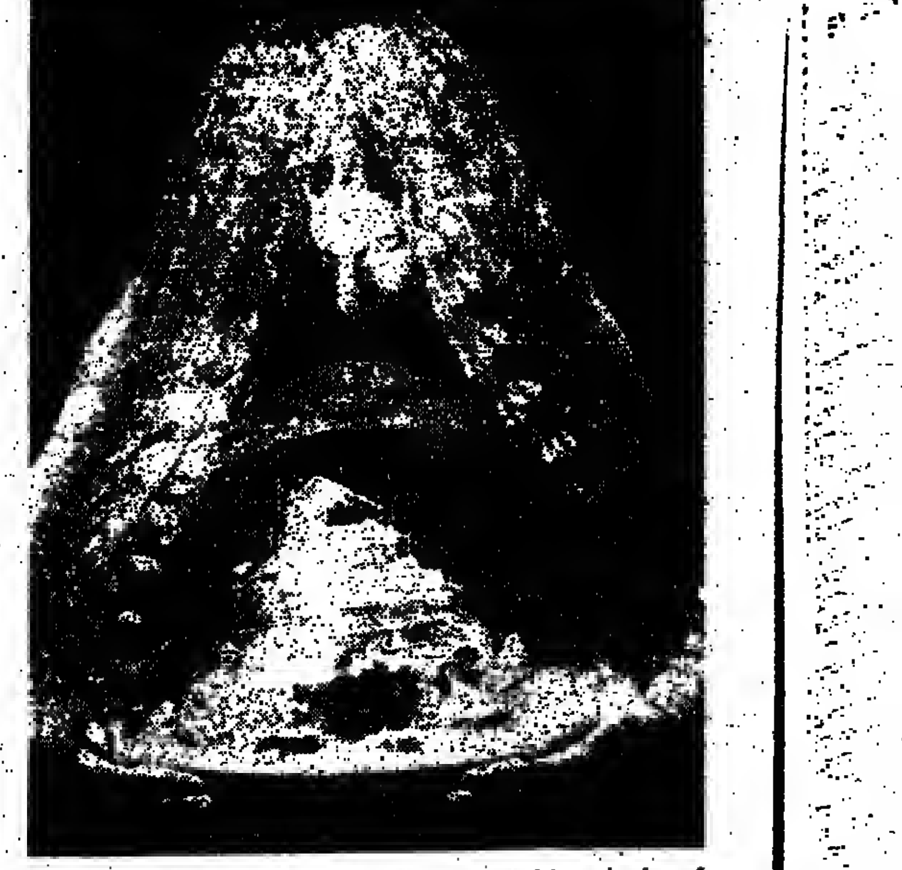
It does, however, beat Susan Seidelman's *Smithereens*. Down-and-out girls and boys pound the turf in seamy-side New York seeking love, fulfilment and some kind—any kind—of plot. None of these commodities appear, and the film, like Keat's writing on water, leaves but the most fleeting of impressions.

*

Lovesick, written and directed by Marshall Brickman, leaves no impression at all: except the tragic indentation of bodies sliding ever deeper and more despairingly into Warner West End seats. Psychoanalyst Dudley Moore falls in love with patient Elizabeth McGovern and wonders about the conflict between romance and professional ethics. Sigmund Freud (Alec Guinness) returns from the grave to advise him. Analyst John Huston hoves into view like a battered galleon. And with slow, dawning panic the filmgoer realises he is supposed be laughing at all this. There isn't, alas, a witty verbal or visual gag in the whole 95 minutes. Can this be the same Marshall Brickman who co-scripted Woody Allen's early films? It can and is.

*

Sadly Mari Kuttna, an enthusiastic film critic and a charming, selfless, ever-helpful colleague, died a week ago. She wrote regularly for The Lady, contributed to leading movie magazines including Sight and Sound and American Film, and, herself Hungarian-born, had especially close-links with Hungarian cinema. Many of that country's best recent films came to Britain at her dedicated urging. She will be greatly missed by both her readers and her fellow critics.



Edith Clever as Kundry in Syberberg's controversial production of Wagner's Parsifal, now showing at the Lumiere. The role is sung in the film by Yvonne Minton.

Max Loppert, reviewing Parsifal as a music critic, finds it disappointing and insubstantial.

A clutter of irrelevance

The overwhelming disappointment, for me, of the Syberberg *Parsifal* is its failure to elucidate the opera in just those cinematic ways that might have brought a special new insight. It is not my brief to examine the work on its cinematic merits (paltry though I must confess to finding them), but rather as a response to one of the most beautiful and important creations of European music theatre; and as such it seems to me to be inadequate on most points of evaluation.

Instead of shedding fresh illumination on those passages where, as Gurnemanz says, "time becomes space" — the transformatory aspects, dense thought-processes that are the despair of most stage directors and which the cinema might be uniquely equipped to transcribe —Syberberg has added a new layer of clutter. In so doing, he places, for much of the film, a new and wholly unwelcome barrier of obfuscation between the spectator and the music.

His is no simple *Parsifal* narrative — fair enough. What has been attempted is an enactment of the plot against an abundance of fluid, highly personal and allusive imagery: this is at once (from its magpie collection of decors) a *Parsifal* after the end of the world, a *Parsifal* flashing up images of Wagner's own biography, and a potted, discontinuous survey of German history, German culture, and world culture.

All this may be of greater immediate interest to some viewers than to others — those with experience of previous Syberberg films, and those who enjoy spot-the-reference games in Wagner's silk dressing gown to favoured. But almost nothing of the imposed imagery — from Wagner's silk dressing gown to the shots of concentration camp victims — seems to me to have any connection with the workings or the temper or the music. To that, indeed, and except in its most basic narrative function, the film is largely an irrelevance.

Doubly unfortunate, then, since this *Parsifal* will be followed by many on two entirely unmeshed levels, that its musical basis should be a performance as undistinguished as that conducted by Armin Jordan. Unfair to measure it by the scratchy, jumpy film soundtrack; but even when heard at home on the Erato records, mediocrity seems to me to be its keynote — lumpy orchestral and choral work, uneven solo singing. I would not deem the film a *total* waste of time: the noble singing of Reiner Goldberg and Robert Lloyd, and the wonderful acting of Edith Clever, provide rewards, as does following the opera with English subtitles (albeit of poor, sometimes ludicrous quality). But as an addition to the *Parsifal* heritage it is sadly insubstantial.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 5,137
CARTE ROSEE

Solvers are required to fill in the black squares and to work out the numbers to the clues (which are in their correct order).

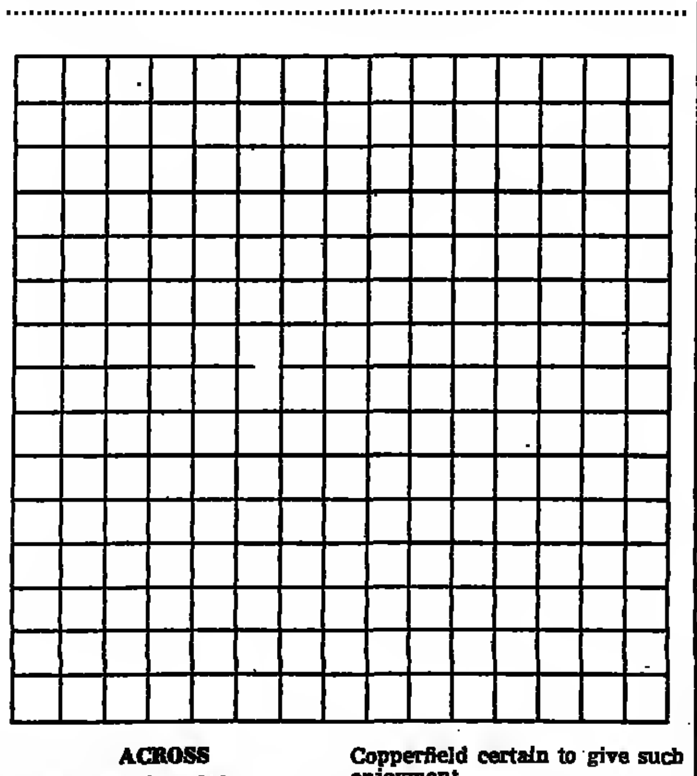
The diagram when completed forms a pattern that looks the same whichever side is uppermost.

A prize of £10 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....

....



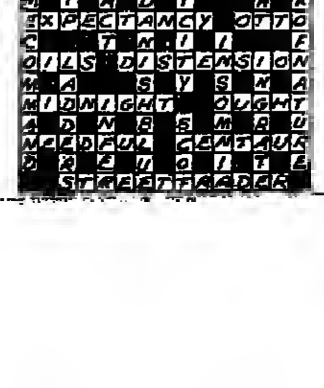
ACROSS

Diarist in spirit only?
King trapped on board—fellow at sea
Greyfriars' openers, Bunter and a second — there will be grumbles
Small particle—rough clue to Smiley's quarry
Wildly toasting Parisian dancer in finale?
In role of Lear, for example, making entreaty
A fleet circle in Italian river
Many layers of assault?
Constable, perhaps, for TUC pier-assembly
This metal is some £2 per oz in Canada
Makes big effort to get English river-rights reduced
Flat is in for repair—one is sure to get cup or medal
Put up paper, attach ribbon?
Girl out of breath
Historic pub in Stoke Poges for legal society? (2 words)
Supported but classically holding bridge

DOWN

Bird giving unpleasant shock after dark
Familiar lines confessing to being a poet
50 cent cut? That is a big lump!
American gangster-bonnet
Copperfield certain to give such enjoyment
Egyptian god travelling in a bus?
With such vigour, could be green by end of May
Tough grass around seaport
Minor planet without a leading organic compound
Matches arranged — Bath is among those at home
The many revs that make small cars go?
The brave old fine country?
Ancient mariner, growler in the main?
Offa's kingdom making America short of capital
Gift of old money
Light-fingered little visitor advanced in school

Solution to Puzzle No. 5,136

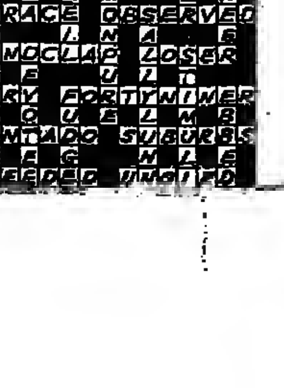


SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE NO. 5,132

Mrs H. M. Wingfield, 68 Alpha Road, Cambridge CB4 3DG.

Mrs J. Snook, 117 Overstone Road, Harpenden, Herts.

Mr R. Gedling, 27 Wallace Fields, Epsom, Surrey.



BBC 1

† Indicates programme in black and white

†8.55 am Leon Erroll in "Hold 'em in Jail." 9.15 Get Set. 10.55 Saturday Morning Film: "Poco," starring Chill Wills. 12.12 pm Weather.
12.15 Grandstand, including 12.50 News Summary; Football Focus (12.20); Football Focus Special (12.55) The PFA Awards Dinner; Tennis (1.10, 3.10) from Monte Carlo—the Volvo Grand Prix; 1.40 Grand National Competition. 1.45 Grand National Focus—Julian Wilson meets Mike O'Brien; Racing (1.50, 2.20, 2.50) from Haydock Park; Boat Race—Oxford (2.10) A look at the team and Cambridge at 2.40; 3.45 Half-time scores; Rugby League (3.55) from Elland Road, Leeds—State Express Challenge Cup, 2nd semi-final: Hull v Castleford; Boat Race Build-up (4.35); Final Score (4.40); The University Boat Race (4.55) Oxford v Cambridge.
5.40 News.
5.50 Regional Variations.
6.55 The Dukes of Hazzard.
6.45 The Kids from Fame.
7.20 Paul Squire, Esq.
7.55 The Saturday Film: "It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet" starring John Alderton.
9.25 News and Sport.
9.25 News and Sport.
9.40 Wogan with Eamonn Andrews and Les Dawson.
10.25 "The Cat and the Canary" starring Honor Blackman, Edward Fox, Carol Lynley and Wilfrid Hyde White.
12.00 Rod Stewart live at the Los Angeles Forum.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS: Wales—5.50-5.55 pm Sports News Wales.
Scotland—5.50-5.55 pm Scoreboard. 1.05 am Scottish News Summary.
Northern Ireland—4.50-5.00 pm Northern Ireland Results (opt-out from Grandstand). 5.50-5.55 Northern Ireland News. 1.05 am Northern Ireland News Headlines.
England—5.50-5.55 pm London and South-East: Sport; South-West (Plymouth): Spotlight Sport; All other English regions: Sport/Regional News.

BBC 2

3.30 pm Saturday Cinema: "Victory at Entebbe," starring Burt Lancaster and Elizabeth Taylor.
5.55 The Mystery of the Passion.
6.05 The Great Race.
6.35 Grand Slam.
7.00 News and Sport.
7.20 International Pro-Celebrity Golf from the Ailsa Course, Ayrshire.
8.10 Alfred Brendel Masterclass.
8.55 Russell Harty on a sightseeing trip down the River Seine in Paris, with the Bluebell Girls and Sacha Distel.
9.25 Gesualdo The Prince.
10.30 News On 2.
10.35-12.05 am Woody Allen's "Sleeper."

LONDON

6.00-9.15 am TV-am Breakfast Programme. 9.30 Sesame Street. 10.30 The Saturday Show with Isla St Clair.
12.15 World of Sport: 12.20 Tennis—The Monte Carlo Open; 12.45 On the Ball; 1.15 News; 1.20 Showjumping — Birmingham International Championships; 1.40 The ITV Six from Kempton and Newcastle (introduced by John Oaksey and Jim McGrath); 3.10 Tennis—Monte Carlo Open, Men's Singles; 3.45 Half-time Soccer News and Reports; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.45 Results.
5.05 News.
5.15 Greatest Hits—1959.
5.45 Chips.
6.40 Punchlines.
7.15 3-2-1.
8.15 The Cannon and Ball Easter Show.
9.15 Clive James at the Movies.
10.15 News.
10.30 The Big Match.
11.15 London News Headlines followed by Showjumping — Birmingham International Championships.
12.15 am Is Rio Image?

CHANNEL 4

1.30 Go Fishing with Jack Charlton.
†1.55 The Gathering Storm: "The First of the Few" directed by and starring Leslie Howard, with David Niven.
†4.00 "The True Story of Lili Marlene."
4.35 Password.
5.05 Brookside.
6.00 7 Days.
6.30 News Headlines followed by Preview 4.
6.45 Il Nostro John Picking.
7.30 Willie Nelson in the Spotlight.
8.30 Hollywood.
9.30 Patti.
10.00 Upstairs, Downstairs.
†11.00 "Flesh and the Devil" starring Greta Garbo.

S4C (WALES)
2.20 pm Getting About. 2.45 Common Interest. 3.10 The Year Of The French. 4.05 Switch. 5.00 Yr Awr Fawr. 6.00 Upstairs, Downstairs. 7.00 Twyllo'r Teulu. 7.30 Newyddion. 7.45 Anturiaethau Syr Wynff A Plwmsan. 8.20 Patti. 8.50 Glas Y Dorlan. 9.20 Y Maes Chwarae. 10.10 Prisons. 11.05 The Sacred Music Of Duke Ellington.

REGIONS

All IBA Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA
9.35 am God's Story. 9.50 European Folk Tales. 10.05 Star Fleet. 10.30 pm Match Of The Week. 12.15 am Portrait Of A Legend (The Beach Boys). 12.40 am At The End Of The Day — Ivan Bailey ponders the question of whether Jesus went to Hell.

BORDER
9.40 am Kum Kum. 10.05 Star Fleet. 10.30 pm Match Time.

CENTRAL
9.35 am God's Story. 9.50 Easter Message From Central. 10.05 Star Fleet. 10.30 pm Star Soccer, hosted by Gary Newbon and Jimmy Greaves.

CHANNEL
5.16 pm Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.20 Happy Days. 5.45 Falcon Crest.

GRAMPIAN
9.35 am God's Story. 9.50 Noddy. 10.05 Star Fleet. 10.30 pm Scotsport—Arthur Montford with all the latest sporting news from North and South of the Border, followed by Showjumping. 12.10 am Reflections.

GRANADA
9.35 am God's Story. 9.50 Cartoon Time. 10.05 Star Fleet. 10.30 pm Match Time — The north-west's own football programme. 12.15 am The Late Film: Shirley MacLaine and Kenneth More in "Desperate Characters."

HTV
9.30 am Ask Oscar! 10.05 Star Fleet. 12.13 pm HTV News. 9.13 HTV News. 12.15 am Barney Miller. 12.40 Wide Awake.

SCOTTISH
9.35 am Wattoo Wattoo. 5.40 The Smurfs. 10.05 Star Fleet. 10.30 pm Scotsport presented by Arthur Montford. 12.15 am Late Call.

TSW
9.25 am Look And See. 9.30 The Saturday Show. 10.28 Gus Honeybun's Magic Birthdays. 10.30 Star Fleet. 10.50 The Fugitive. 11.40 WKRP in Cincinnati. 12.12 pm TSW Regional News. 5.10 Newsport. 9.20 Happy Days. 5.45 Falcon Crest. 12.10 am Postscript. 12.20 South West Weather.

TVS
9.35 am Secret Valley. 10.05 Star Fleet. 12.12 pm TVS Weather. 5.45 Saturday News and Sport. 12.15 am Company.

TYNE TEES
9.30 am Morning Glory. 9.35 The Fantastic Four. 10.00 Star Fleet. 12.13 pm North East News. 9.45 North East News. 5.47 Chips. 10.30 Shoot. 12.15 am "Shock Treatment." 1.40 Epilogue.

ULSTER
10.05 am Star Fleet. 1.18 pm Ulster News. 5.00 Sports Results. 5.13 Ulster News. 10.28 Ulster Weather. 12.18 am News At Bedtime.

YORKSHIRE
9.30 am Gardening Time. 5.55 Wattoo Wattoo. 10.05 Star Fleet. 10.30 pm Match Time—The best of the day's football action, with Elton Welsby, Denis Law and Martin Tyler. 12.15 am Making A Living.

(s) Stereo (when broadcast on vhf)

RADIO 1
8.00 am Tony Blackburn's Saturday Show. 10.00 Mike Smith. 1.00 pm Adrian Juste (s). 2.00 A King In New York (s). 2.05 Paul Gambaccini (s). 4.00 Saturday Live (s). 6.30 In Concert (s). 7.30 Janice Long. 10.00-12.00 Gary Davies.

RADIO 2
8.05 am David Jacobs (s). 10.00 Sounds of the 60s (s). 11.00 Album Time (s). 1.00 pm The Impressionists. 1.30 Sport On 2—Rugby Union: Cardiff v Barbarians: Football: Commentary, half-time Football at 3.45; 129th University Boat Race and at 5.20 Football Reports. 5.45 Racing Results and 5.50 Final Pools Check. 5.00 Country Greats In Concert. 7.00 Jazz Score. 7.30 Big Band Special (s). 8.00 Billy May in Concert from the Royal Festival Hall, London (s). 9.00-9.20 Interval. 10.00 Nordring Festival 1982 (s). 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Pete Murray's Late Show presents You and the Night and the Music (s).

RADIO 3
8.00 am News. 8.05 Aubade (s). 9.00 News. 9.05 Record Review (s). 10.15 Stereo Release (s). 11.10 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra (s). 1.00 pm News. 1.05 Telemann, Delius and Geoffrey Bush, chamber and vocal recital (s). 2.00 The Music of Spain (s). 5.00 Jazz Record Requests (s). 5.45 Critics' Forum. 6.35 The Iberian Organ (s). 7.15 Bernard Stevens, chamber music (s). 7.45 Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra concert, part 1: Beethoven, Weber (s). 8.40 Cross Purposes with Frederic Raphael. 9.00 Concert, part 2: Liszt, Furtwangler, Johann Strauss (s). 10.00 The Business Trip by Eugene Dubnov. 10.10 Schubert and Mozart, music for two pianos and voices (s). 11.15-11.18 News.

RADIO 4
7.00 am News. 7.10 Today's Papers. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.45 In Perspective. 7.50 It's A Bargain. 7.55 Weather, travel, programme news. 8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Papers. 8.15 Sport On 4. 8.46 Breakaway. 8.57 Weather, travel. 9.00 News. 9.50 News Stand. 10.05 The Week In Westminster. 10.30 Daily Service (s). 10.45 New Wine In Old Bottles. 11.00 Pick of the Week (s). 11.35 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 News. 12.02 pm Money Box. 12.27 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (s). 12.55 Weather, programme news. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News. 2.05 Thirty-Minute Theatre (s). 2.35 Medicine Now. 3.05 Wildlife. 3.30 Charles Causley on Stubbs. 4.00 News. 4.02 International Assignment. 4.30 Does He Take Sugar? 5.00 Herbs, Useful Plants (4). 5.25 Whizzologs-wavelength (s). 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather, travel, programme news. 6.00 News and Sports Round-up. 6.25 Desert Island Discs (s). 7.30 Stop The Week with Laurie Taylor (s). 8.00 Richard Baker (s). 8.30 Saturday Night Theatre (s). 9.45 The Five-Bob Meal. 9.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 A Short Voyage Upriver (s). 11.00 Lighten Our Darkness. 11.15 Stop The Week with Laurie Taylor (s). 12.00 News.

BBC RADIO LONDON
5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.32 Good Fishing. 8.04 London Today. 8.33 The Magic Carpet Company. 9.03 Openings. 9.30 Corridors of Power. 10.02 All That Jazz. 11.30 Robbie Vincent's Saturday Show. 2.02 pm Breakthrough. 3.30 The Great Composers. 5.30 Evening Star. 6.30 Radio Replies. 7.00 The Way It Was. 7.30 As Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am Join Radio 2.

LONDON BROADCASTING
7.00 am AM with Magnus Carter and Jenny Lacey. 10.00 Jellybone. 12.00 LBC Reports. 1.00 pm Sportswatch. 8.00 LBC Reports. 7.00 Good Mela. 8.00 Network. 9.00 Hayes on Saturday. 10.00 Nightline. 1.00 am Night Extra. 4.00 Travel '83. 4.30 Decision Makers.

CAPITAL RADIO
7.00 am The Breakfast Show. 9.00 Dave Cash and Peter Young. 11.00 Alan Freeman and Peter Young. 12.00 Alan Freeman and Mike Allen. 1.00 pm Sarah Ward and Mike Allen. 3.00 Matthew Bannister and Nicky Horne. 4.00 Adrian Love and Nicky Horne. 8.00 Gary Crowley's Magic Box. 7.00 Al Matthews' Soul Spectrum. 9.00 Roots Rockers with David Rodigan. 11.00 View From The Top with Roger Scott. 12.00 Midnight Special—Phil Allen.

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No 468

1 Q-Q5 ch! wins. If 1...K-B1; 2 Q-N3 stops the perpetual so that White can push his pawn. Korchnoi tried 1...K-K2 (hoping for 2 Q-N3? Q-N6 ch! when the K catches the P); 2 Q-K5 ch! Resigns. White has stopped the perpetual ch. by guarding against Q-K8, so can now queen his pawn.

Solution to Problem No 468

1 B-B6 (threat 2 BxRP and 3 B-B2) PxB; 2 Q-N7! and if P-QB4 3 Q-KR1, or if P-KB5 3

THEATRES

ADELPHI. S. CC. 836 7611. MAGGIE LYNN. The Musical. Evgs 8.0. Mats Wed. Sat 3 pm. Credit card Hotline 930 9232.

ALBERY. S. 836 3878. CC 379 6565/930 9232. Grp bkgs 836 3962/379 6061. Evgs 7.30. Thur & Sat mat 3.00. Plays EASTER MON. RON ALDRIDGE, SARAH SCOTT CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD. PLAY OF THE YEAR SWET 1981. Over 800 performances. (Sarah Scott plays until 11 April while Elizabeth Quinn is on holiday). Dinner San Martino/Stalls £11.90.

ALDWYCH. S. CC. 01-836 6404. 379 6233. Credit card only 836 6641. Mon-Fri 7.30. Sats 5.0 & 8.36. Wed mat 2.30. GRIFF RHYS JONES in CHARLEY'S AUNT. LIMITED SEASON. 12 WEEKS ONLY. Group sales Box Office 379 6061.

AMBASSADORS. S CC 836 1171. Grp sales 379 6061. Evgs 8.0. Tues mat 3.0 & Sat mat 5.0. OVER 500 PERFORMANCES. 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD. Doreen Mantle, Ronnie Stevens. LAST 2 WEEKS—ends Saturday, April 6.

APOLLO THEATRE. 437 2663. CC Hotline 930 9232. Group sales 379 6061. TOM CONTI, PAULINE COLLINS in Bernard Slade's ROMANTIC COMEDY. Evgs 8.0. Mats Wed 3, Sat 5.

APOLLO VICTORIA. 01-828 8665. Evgs 7.30. Sat Mat 2.00. SEASON EXTENDED UNTIL 7 MAY. WAYNE SLEEP. The most exciting dancer in the world with his record breaking show — DASH. Special Easter Perfs. Today at 2.30 & 7.30. Easter Mon at 7.30. Reduction for families. Tel 01-828 8685 for details. Group Sales 01-379 6061. Party Bkgs 01-828 6188. TICKETS AVAILABLE TODAY. TOPOL in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Opens June 26 for 66 Perfs only. 01-834 6177.

ARTS THEATRE. 01-836 2132. STEVEN BERKOFF'S DECADENCE with Steven Berkoff and Linda Marlowe. Tues-Fri 8.30 Sat 5.0 & 8.0. LAST THREE WEEKS.

ASTORIA. Charing X Rd. 01-437 6565. CC 836 6232. Grp sales 379 6061. THE DARTS. The McGann Brothers in YAKETY YAK! Mon-Thur 8.00, Fri 5.30 & 8.15 Sat 6.00 & 9.00. Great food avail during the show at SMOKEY JOE'S.

BARBICAN. 01-628 8795. CC 638 8891. (Fri & Sun 12.30-8 pm, Sat 10 am-8 pm) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. BARBICAN THEATRE. Booking open for reduced price previews from 7 April THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, from 21 April THE ROARING GIRL by Middleton & Dekker, from 5 May MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. THE PIT—THE BODY from 22 April new play by Nick Darke.

BARBICAN HALL. Barbican Centre EC2. CC 01-638 8891. Res. 01-628 8795. Today 3.00 pm. ECO. Raymond Leppard conductor. Davies Evangelist, Macann Christus, Armstrong soprano, Finnie mezzo-soprano, Davies tenor, Varcoe baritone. Pro Musica Chorus of London. Desborough School Choir. Bach: St Matthew Passion. Tomor MOSTLY MOZART FESTIVAL. 3.15 pm. The Academy of Ancient Music. Christopher Hogwood director. Tomor 7.30 pm. Shirley Yerrett soprano, Geoffrey Parsons piano.

BLOOMSBURY. Gordon St. WC1. 387 9629. CYPRUS NATIONAL THEATRE in LYSISTRATA. Last 4 Perfs Today, Tomor 3.30 & 8.00. Now Booking MARIO MAYA Gypsy Flamenco Th. April 11-23.

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE. SUMMER SEASON. Sponsored by Martini & Rossi Ltd. MAY 11-OCT 1. ALAN BATES in A PATRIOT FOR ME. GOOGIE WITHERS in TIME AND THE CONWAYS. PATRICIA HODGE in AS YOU LIKE IT. OMAR SHARIF in THE SLEEPING PRINCE. Priority bkg only until April 18 for Members. For Priority bkg form £3 subscription to: The Secretary, CFT Society, Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, West Sussex (0243) 785482. Public bkg from April 18. Box Office (0243) 781312.

COLISEUM. S 836 3161. CC 240 5258. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Ton't, Fri 7.00 THE FORCE OF DESTINY. Thurs 7.30 RUSALKA. Some seats avail at door each day.

COMEDY THEATRE. S. 930 2578. CC bkgs 839 1438. Grp sales 379 6061. Mon-Fri 8.0, Sat 8.15, mats Thur 3, Sat 5.15. Prices £3-£8 (not suitable for children). STEAMING by Nell Dunn. COMEDY OF THE YEAR. SWET AWARD 1981. NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR. Pre-show supper at Cafe Royal plus stall seats only £9.90. Mon to Thur. Over 800 performances.

CRITERION. S 930 3216. CC 379 6565. Grps 836 3962. Mon-Thur 8.00, Fri & Sat 5.15 & 8.30. Plays Bank Hol Mon. CAN'T PAY? WON'T PAY! a farce by Dario Fo. THE LONGEST RUNNING FARCE IN THE WEST END. Pre-show supper at Cafe Royal plus best seat only £16.50. Student standby £3.50.

DONMAR WAREHOUSE. Covent Garden, Earlham St. S. CC. 379 6565. SEATS FROM £2.50. ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT TO SEE ATC in REP. UBU, THE VAN, DALIST. Today 4.30 & 8 pm. NEXT WEEK: TEMPEST FOLLOWING WK PROVOKED WIFE REPLACES QUIXOTE.

DRURY LANE. Theatre Royal. CC 01-836 8108. Grp sales 379 6061. OLIVER TOBIAS, PETER NOONE, RONALD FRASER, ANNIE ROSS in THE PIRATES

DUKE OF YORK'S. S 836 5122. CC 836 9837. Mon-Thur 8.00, Fri & Sat 8.0 & 8.45. LIMITED SEASON. CHERYL CAMPBELL, STEPHEN REA in MISS JULIE. Some good seats still avail £6, £5, £4. Hurry 4 wks only.

FORTUNE. Cov Gdn. 836 2238. DENIS LAWSON in MR CINDERS. Music by Vivian Ellis. Prevs from April 19. CC Hotline 930 9232. Grps 379 6061.

GLOBE. CC 01-437 1592. DAISY PULLS IT OFF. PREVIEWS FROM April 13, OPENS April 18. Evgs 8.00, mats Wed 3.00. Sat 5.00. Group sales 379 6061.

GARRICK. S CC. 01-836 4601. Evgs 8. Wed mat 3.0. Sat 5.0 & 8.0. 12th HYSTERICAL YEAR LONGEST-RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WORLD. NO SEX PLEASE—WE'RE BRITISH. 2 HOURS OF NON-STOP LAUGHTER. Directed by Allan Davis. Group sales Box Office 01-379 6061. Credit card Hotline 01-930 9232. OVER 4,750 PERFS OF LONDON'S LONGEST-RUNNING FARCE.

GREENWICH. 01-858 7755. Evgs 7.45, mats Sat 2.30. MAKING TRACKS by Alan Ayckbourn. Music by Paul Todd.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL. 930 9832. Grp sales 01-379 6061. REX HARRISON, DIANA RIGG, ROSEMARY HARRIS, FRANK MIDDLEMASS, DORIS HARE, MEL MARTIN, PAXTON WHITEHEAD, PAUL CURRAN and SIMON WARD in HEARTBREAK HOUSE by Bernard Shaw. Directed by John Dexter. EVGS. 7.30, MATS WED & SAT 2.30.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. 930 6606-7. CC 930 4025-6. Opens May 26 red price prevs May 18. BUGSY MALONE on Stage. Advanced Box Office open. Group sales 01-379 6061.

KINGS HEAD. 226 1916. Prevs Dnr 6.45, Show 7.45. Opens Tues Dnr 6.30, Show 7.30 NOT ABOUT HEROES by Stephen MacDonald. FRINGE FIRST AWARD.

LA VIE EN ROSE. Gt Windmill St. W1. CC. THEATRE RESTAURANT CABARET BAR DANCING. Nightly at 10 pm. THE SPECTACULAR GLAMOROUS REVUE BIZZARE. BIG BRASH MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA. BIZZARE. HUGE CAST OF INTERNATIONAL ARTISTES. Dinner, Dancing, Entertainment 7.30-2 am. Non-diners welcome. Reservations 437 6312-6380/730 8198 and all leading agents (no booking charge).

LONDON PALLADIUM. 01-437 7373. NIGHTLY AT 7.30. MATINEES SAT. ONLY AT 2.45. THE TWO RONNIES. LIMITED SEASON TO MAY 21. Ring Hotline 01-734 8961 for an instant Credit card booking. SPEND EASTER WITH THE TWO RONNIES AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM. SPECIAL PERFS TODAY AT 2.45 & 7.30. EASTER MON AT 7.30. MATINEE TODAY 2.45. FEW SEATS AVAIL FROM £4.50 AT DOORS.

LONDON PALLADIUM. 01-437 7373. OPENING JUNE 30. FIRST-EVER STAGE PRODUCTION TOMMY STEELE in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN. Box Office now open at Theatre and all Agents. For instant confirmed Credit card bookings ring 01-437 7373 or 01-437 2055.

LYRIC THEATRE. 437 3686. CC Group sales 379 6061. From April 7. Reduced price prevs until April 11. BARBARA DICKSON in BLOOD BROTHERS. The WILLY RUSSELL Musical.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH. S. CC 741 2311. Evgs 7.30. Mat Thur 2.30. Sat 4.30 & 8.15. The Magical BLACK LIGHT THEATRE OF PRAGUE. LYRIC STUDIO: Evgs 8.0. COMMEDIA by Marcella Evaristi.

MAY FAIR. S CC 629 3036. Mon-Thur 8.00, Fri and Sat 6.00 & 8.30. Richard Todd, Eric Lander, Brigid O'Hara in THE BUSINESS OF MURDER. SECOND GREAT YEAR.

MERMAID THEATRE. S 01-236 5568. CC 230 5324. Grp sales 379 6061. Mon to Thur 8, Fri & Sat 6.45 & 9.15. TOYAH WILLCOX in TRAFFORD TANZI by Claire Luckham. Nominated COMEDY OF THE YEAR SWET Awards 1982. At Fri 7 Sat 8.45 shows Julia North plays Tanzi. Buy your seats at any Keith Prowse at same price as Theatre Box Office.

NATIONAL THEATRE. 'S' 928 2252. OLIVIER (open stage) Low Price Prevs Ton't Mon 7.15 THE RIVALS by Sheridan. LYTTELTON (proscenium stage) Today 3.00 & 7.45, Mon 3.00 (low price mat) & 7.45 WAY UPSTREAM by Alan Ayckbourn. COTTESLOE (small auditorium—low price tkts) Today 2.30 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 Last 3 Perfs of THE SPANISH TRAGEDY by Kyd. Excellent cheap seats day of perf all 3 theatres. Also standby from 10 am on day of perf. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs 928 5933.

NEW LONDON. Drury Lane. WC2. CC 01-405 0072 or 404 4079. Evgs 7.45, Tues & Sat 3.00 & 7.45. THE ANDREW LLOYD-WEBBER/T. S. ELIOT AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS. Group bookings 01-405 1567 or 379 6061. Apply daily to Box Office for returns. Latecomers not admitted while auditorium is in motion—please be prompt. Bars open 6.45 pm. NOW BOOKING TO JAN. 1984.

PALACE. 437 6834. CC 437 8327. NOW BOOKING THROUGH 1983. SONG AND DANCE. Starring GEMMA CRAVEN and JOHN MEEHAN. Evgs 8.0. Fri & Sat 5.45 & 8.30. Some good seats avail

COLLECTING

It's odds-on rocking horses

BY JUNE FIELD


Hand-made rocking horse from Horses of Troy, Victorian style

"I WAS SHOCKED by its evil expression. Bis ferocious upper lip snarled and twisted over huge clipped yellow teeth. His nostrils were red and flared," was bow Diana Holman Hunt in *My Grandmother and I*, 1905, described finding ber father's old rocking horse in the attic.

Ernest Shephard, illustrator of *The Wind in the Willows*, had fonder memories of his beloved tricycle-horse, known as a velocipede, mounted on three wheels, and popular in the late 19th century. Featured on the dust-jacket of Shepbard's 1957 autobiography *Drawn from Memory*, he recalled his Aunt Alicia buying it for him: "I always thought that the Angel Gabriel, disguised as a shop-walker in Mr James Shoolbred's store, had led my aunt to Septimus where he stood, with eyes dilated and distended nostrils, pawing the air with his two forelegs as though yearning to discard his three wheels."

Through the centuries children have played with toys in the shape of animals, with James I writing to his young son in 1603 that "the honourablest and most commendable games" were those on horseback. And in preparation for the real thing, youngsters were encouraged to "ride" wooden horses, some merely a crude version, a horse's head stuck on a pole. More sophisticated types were fitted with a T cross bar with wheels at the back.

These hobby horses appear in English, French and other West European medieval illustrations, used by adults as well as the young. One example, favoured by mummers and morris dancers, is clearly shown in a 14th century French psalter—the horse had a realistic head and neck, but the body consisted of a lightweight wicker frame which fitted round the rider's waist, with a flowing skirt attached to the frame to hide the legs.

In Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair*, Lanthorn Leatherhead, the peddler, shouts his wares as "Buy a fine hobby horse tc make your son a titter." A wood engraving around 1600, showed a child with a simple hobby horse, while other drawings portrayed a form of rocking horse with pillion seat on a solid rocking base, but with no full body or legs.

A more realistic steed mounted on a rocking platform dates from as early as c.1650, and over the next two and a half centuries the horse on curved rockers was created. The 19th century saw the development of the modern type of horse on stand which gallops on two parallel iron pivots. Documentation on toy horses generally is somewhat unco-ordinated, the best references contained in Mrs F. Neville Jackson's *Toys Of Other Days* (White Lion 1975), and Constance E. King's *Antique Toys And Dolls* (Studio Vista 1979).

Rocking horses, old and new, are still eargerly sought after, by adults as much as children. A remarkable collection of late Victorian beasts at the Clarendon Gallery in Holland Park, W11, at the end of last year, sold out on the first day, at prices from £495 to £1,250, which came as a great surprise to the organisers.

The exhibition was put on by the Skill Gallery Craftsmen, a team who began working together in 1970, and who prefer to remain anonymous. "Their aim is to work together, subordinating any wish for personal expression to a shared search for quality," says their marketing representative Serena Harrison. "Implicit in this is the idea that what is produced, coming from many hands, and involving different crafts, should stand under the name of the group rather than that of any particular individual." Currently the group are working on the restoration of an old gypsy caravan.

The horses, each different in character, were put together by the craftsmen from stock inherited from a shop in London called the Rocking Horse, which is now no more. The bodies, mainly in the rough, were meticulously painted dapple grey, piebald, chestnut or white, and brought to life with authentic glass eyes, bushy manes and tails, leather bridles and saddles, their bow-rockers and stands often richly decorated with gold leaf. Sally, the dappled gypsy mare sported a red rosette above an ear to complement her scarlet saddle, while Leila bad a hand of Persian coins on ber brow.

Arthur Watson and his wife Molly run Horses of Troy at Caffamill, 45 Statioo Road, Fowey, Cornwall, where they will either repair your own borse or make you a new one. "Restorations are done with materials as similar to the original as possible, the emphasis being on restoration and not improvemeot." Arthur Watson, retired navy man told me, admitting that be finds this type of work even more rewarding than making new.

In the Victorian mill which is the worksbop, I saw Pony and Troy, hand-carved from laminated woods with real horse-bair tails and manes, leather saddles and braided bridles, their bodies either white and dapple grey, or cbestnut with wbite forebead "flash," and "socks." Particularly appealing is Hannibal, produced in resin laminated glass fibre. Prices vary between £210 to £410 according to material and type of stand, bow or "swinger." Enquiries for the horses come from all over the world, the latest from Australia and an art gallery in New York.

Civil engineer John Marriott says he "opted-out" some three years ago to restore and make rocking borses. In a converted stable at 86 Village Road, Bromham, Bedford, he will spend 100 working hours carving a horse from imported Scandinavian pine or English lime. The finish is clear varnish or dapple grey, the manes and tails black, grey, brown or palomino as appropriate. Prices are £275 to around £400, and there is currently a waiting list of three or four months for delivery. John Marriott has made over 200 horses, the first one be ever made carrying 27 stone without breaking.

Costs of restoration is around £50 for a fairly basic refurbishment, nearer £150 for an animal that needs the full treatment—repairs to leg-joints, paint-work, and replacing worn leather on saddles and so on.

End of the pound as we know it

COINS

JAMES MACKAY

BRITAIN'S much-heralded and long-awaited pound coin officially goes into circulation on April 21, and already establishes several precedents. It is believed to be the first coin to have been inaugurated by a member of the Royal Family, Prince Charles having struck the first coin at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant.

It is certainly the first British coin to have been offered for sale at auction in advance of its actual release date and also the first coin struck by Royal hand to have been sold in this manner.

The Prince of Wales handed over the coin for auction by Spink, the proceeds to be given to the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases. It was knocked down at the Spink sale on February 9 to London restaurateur Michael Bloom, for £2,310 (including buyer's premium and VAT)—a handsome premium over its legal tender value.

The coin was just a normal production piece, not a proof or precious metal version, but its provenance is established by its leather presentation case and certificate of authenticity signed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Master of the Royal Mint. Dr Jeremy Gerhard, Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, also signed the document.

The launch of the pound coin into general circulation will be the culmination of Britain's first National Coin Week, an idea borrowed from philately which has received a substantial boost from National Stamp Week, beld in May and commemorating the birthday of the Penny Black.

Whether the birth of the pound coin will come to be regarded as an event of similar historic significance remains to be seen. Either the new coin will fail to catch on, like the Anthony dollar in America (where competition from the greenback has proved too much) or it will be overtaken by the relentless march of inflation. Significantly, the Isle of Man, which pioneered pound coins in 1978, now reports a greater demand for the five-pound coin introduced in 1981.

National Coin Week is being celebrated all over the country in a variety of ways. Coin clubs are organising displays in local museums and libraries, while the larger museums are mounting special exhibits and the British Museum's Department of Coins and Medals is holding a series of lectures.

Apart from the supreme accolade, a spot on Terry Wogan's Song for Europe TV programme, the Royal Mint sbould derive some useful publicity from the special displays which it is mounting in selected department stores. A number of special postmarks and souvenir covers is also being sponsored, in an attempt to win over stamp collectors to the rival hobby.

The Congress of the British Association of Numismatic Societies will take place at Bristol during the course of the week. A two-day exhibition, Coinex '83, will be held at the Forum, Wythenshawe, Manchester on April 15-16, with more than 40 dealers from all parts of Britain taking part. On Sunday April 17 the third London coin and banknote fair at the Cafe Royal promises to be bigger and better than usual.

Christie's and Glendining's bave sales on the eve of Coin Week, on April 13. Christie's sale of British and foreign campaign medals, ordera and decorations is particularly strong in European decorations, the most notable being the magnificent Grand Cross badge of the Brunswick Order of Henry the Lion.

In the British section, the most interesting lot is the pair of medals and supporting documents relating to Mercury, a carrier pigeon, one of only 31 birds to win the coveted Dickin Medal. This decoration, and the Army Pigeon Service Award, were conferred for an epic flight from Denmark to England in 1942, regarded as the most outstanding single performance of any one pigeon during the war.

One of the highlights of Coin Week itself is the sale of Islamic coins at Sotheby's on April 20. In February Sotheby's previous all-Islamic sale totalled £92,150, against a pre-sale estimate of £69,000—an indication of the upsurge of interest in this field.

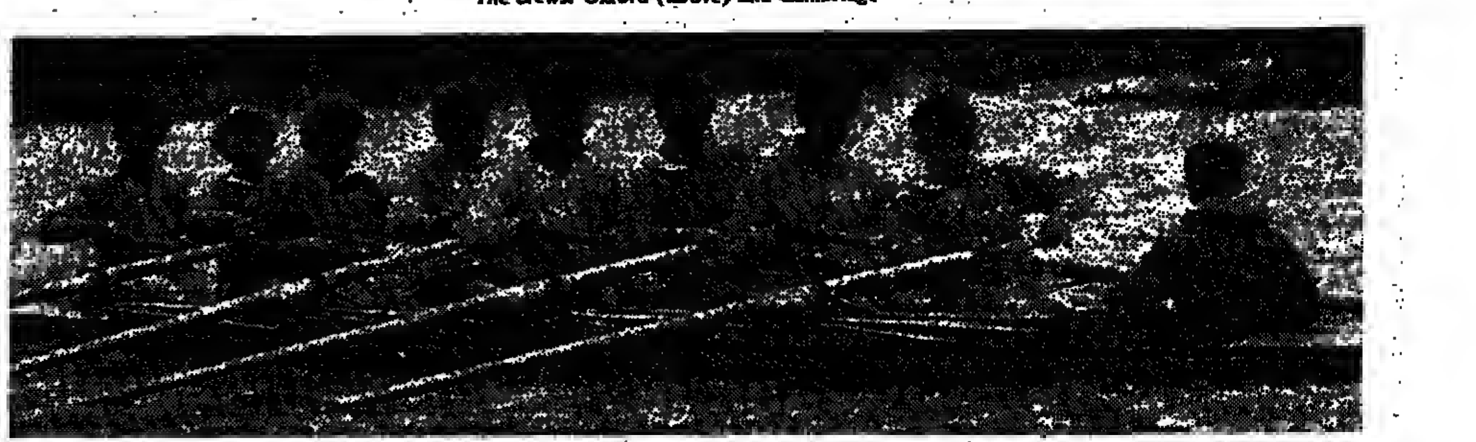
The April sale differs from all previous Islamic sales organised by Sotheby's since 1978 in that it contains only coins which have been very carefully chosen because of their rarity, and it is unquestionably the finest and most important sale of its kind ever to take place.

The coins range in date from the earliest issues of the Umayyads up to the present day. Many of the pieces are hitherto unrecorded and several types bave never before been offered for public sale. The star item is tbe Umayyad dinar of Ifriquiya (Africa), struck at Oayrawan in Tunisia about 720 AD, which is not ooly extremely rare but in virtually uncirculated condition, bence the pre-sale estimate of £15,000-£20,000.

Other outstanding rarities include an Ayyubid dinar of al-Salih Ayyub with the previously unrecorded mint name of Qal 'at al-Qahira, and the altogether new and unpublished type of Egyptian coinage of al-Hakim from the first year of his reign.

Nearer the present day, there are several extremely scarce proof sets from Jordan and Kuwait. With issue limits of only 25 to 60 sets these issues, dating between 1949 and 1962, seem very reasonable at the estimate of £350-£400 a set. Given the upsurge of interest in coins within the Arab world itself it is unlikely that such rare proof sets will remain at

SPORT



The crews: Oxford (above) and Cambridge

Michael Donne previews today's controversial Boat Race

Eight in a row for Oxford

DESPITE the last-minute traumas of the past week, Oxford must still go to the stake-boats in today's Boat Race as the firm favourite to win their eighth successive victory. If they can pull it off again this year they will have had the longest run of wins for either crew since Cambridge won 13 races in a row from 1924 to 1936.

All the unseemly bickering over recent weeks as to the eligibility or otherwise of individuals to row must now be put aside. What matters today is the race itself and all the indications are that it could be a good one.

The unforeseen upsets of the past week, such as last-minute illness in the Oxford crew, may not make so much difference as some have suggested. With the mammoth array of talent available in the Oxford squad, including Isis, their second boat (most have either previous Boat Race victories or international medals, or both, to their credit) the dark blues should be able to clinch another victory.

Nevertheless, long experience of Boat Races still tends to make one add the odd word of caution. The Tideway is an unpredictable place, calm and smiling one minute but savage as a tiger the next. A stiff wind against a full stream can quickly generate sinking conditions, as more than one University crew has dicovered to its cost in the past and very often the race is won or lost according to the weather conditions.

So far, both crews have navigated the exceptionally bad weather of the past week or so with considerable skill. It is always counter-productive for coaches to try to shield crews from the worst of the weather: to row under whatever conditions prevail on the day is what the race is all about and to try to soften the blow during training merely courts disaster on the day. The best training is to throw the crews in at the deep end and let them struggle through. This, after all, is what many Tideway and other clubs have to do.

Nevertheless, the training period, for better or worse, is now over. During the past two weeks or so, both crews have been impressive. There have been the customary upsets—an injury to one of the Cambridge men, changes in the Oxford order of rowing requiring a period of resettlement, and the so-called "shock" upsets, such as Oxford's defeat in the Kingston Head of the River Race. These are but milestones on the road to the great day. They are valuable if they engender a sense of alertness in the Boat Race crews to the kind of competitive environment in which they are involved, but in themselves they can only be regarded as pointers to ultimate form.

What will matter today is physical fitness, stamina, courage and, above all, watermanship—the ability to ride over and through whatever combination of wind and tide will be tossed at the crews as they pull away from the stake boats on their 20 minutes of strain through to Mortlake. It is often said that the race is won or lost by Hammersmith Bridge, and certainly, any crew down at that point has to achieve almost a miracle to come through and win. Oxford are strong, and exceptionally experienced. Cambridge have less experience, but are doggedly determined to break Oxford's long run of victories, and they can be expected to fight hard. Oxford ought to take home the Ladbroke Trophy again, but it could be far from the walk-over that many so far have been predicting.

THE CREWS

CAMBRIDGE	OXFORD
Bow *E. M. D. Pearson (King's, Canterbury and Jesus)	Bow W. J. Lang (Wallingford and Magdalen)
2 *A. R. Knight (Hampton GS and Clare)	2 *H. E. Clay (Eton and Magdalen)
3 *R. M. Philp (Bryanston and Downing)	3 *R. P. Yonge (King's, Canterbury and New College)
4 *C. D. Heard (Shrewsbury and Lady Margaret)	4 G. R. D. Jones (Sydney Univ., Australia, and New College)
5 S. W. Berger (Dartmouth Coll, US, and 1st & 3rd Trinity)	5 *N. B. Rankov (Bradford GS and St Hugh's)
6 P. R. W. Sheppard (Durham Univ. and Lady Margaret)	6 J. M. Evans (Princeton Univ., U.S. and Univ. College)
7 J. L. Garrett (Shrewsbury and Lady Margaret)	7 W. M. Evans (Queen's Univ., Canada and Univ. College)
Stroke *S. A. Harris (Desborough and Queen's)	Stroke *J. L. Bland (King Edward VI, Stafford and Merton)
Cox L. Bernstein (City of London and Emmanuel)	Cox S. E. Higgins (Newcastle RGS and Exeter)
* Old Blues	* Old Blues

Soccer's £8m question: In the pub or in the home?

A VIDEO company has offered the Football League £8m to screen soccer matches in pubs. The television companies have offered £5.3m which they say is their limit. Could this mean the end of regular soccer matches in the home? Trevor Bailey reports on money, politics and greed in Britain's national game.

THE MANY financial structural and managerial problems facing the Football League were underlined in this week's Chester Report, whose recommendations are unlikely to prove drastic enough to provide the complete cure.

It certainly came as no surprise when a few weeks ago the League clubs unanimously rejected the £5.3m offer from the BBC and ITV for live and recorded televised League football over the next two years.

Although this represented a 16 per cent increase on the previous agreement the Football League, like every other body controlling a sport, believes that television should pay more. Not only that they also want them to permit shirt advertising at televised matches.

Shirt advertising would, of course, greatly increase the value of the commercial sponsorship of the big clubs.

Initially the League's ultimatum to the two television companies of no League matches next season unless more money was forthcoming appeared to suffer from two fundamental weaknesses. First, although television can exist without football, football, as with every other major sport, cannot exist in its present form without large sports sponsorship which wants coverage on the box; and second, the loss of television fees would surely have accelerated the demise of some Third and Four Division clubs.

Now the League management committee is able to go back to its members and put to them at an extraordinary general meeting on April 26 the £8m offer from Telejector, a wholly owned subsidiary of the London Liverpool Trust which has already installed over 2,000 large screens in pubs and clubs.

Telejector aims to make it a soccer evening every Monday with recordings of First and Second Division matches. Although the one thing guaranteed to keep me out of a pub or club on a Monday would be a replay of part of a Saturday-afternoon football match, other people may have other tastes. It represents an intriguing ex-

Telejector also have no objection to shirt advertising, but the commercial worth will be considerably less than if on television, though the company presumably will be able to sell some games overseas.

Nobody begrudges the Football League trying to make money. The worrying feature is the suspicion that some club chairmen are rather more concerned about extra revenue than the future of the game. This was substantiated by the way their negotiating committee was prepared to offer more matches to television than the BBC and ITV wanted, providing the price was right, in spite of the belief of some administrators that the game is overexposed.

The conflict between the League and the television companies is always liable to occur in any heavily sponsored sport with strong television connections, whenever one or more of the five interested parties becomes too demanding, or desperate for additional money.

This greed syndrome involves five different groups, all seeking the best possible deal for them- the promotion companies and agents, or middle men, the controlling body, the commercial sponsors and television.

The abolition of the maximum wage, freedom of contract and greed for success by club chairmen and managers and greed for money by the players has meant that wages have increased astronomically, while gates have dropped. In the Fourth Division the present wage bill is 88 per cent above the match receipts.

The manager of a Third Division club told me recently that he could have had a reasonable, but far from exceptional First Division player on loan, if he could find the £800 a week wages which were demanded. As his club was averaging crowds of under 2,500 for home matches, the deal was a non-starter.

The middlemen provide a necessary link between sponsor and the club, player or association, but as their interest is essentially cash, they are liable to become too greedy, and indeed too powerful.

Although the Football League wants and needs more money, it must not forget that its present plight has been largely brought about by a combination of extravagance, mismanagement and lack of foresight.

The sponsor simply wants extra publicity. In this respect he is inclined to forget that the media really owes him nothing. If he had not invested in sports sponsorship he might well have taken more advertising space in newspapers, or on commercial radio or television.

Television has found sport to be both a cheap and rewarding form of family entertainment. A play or documentary normally costs in excess of £110,000 per hour whereas sport works out in the region of £25,000.

There is an obvious temptation for them to drive too hard a bargain, well aware of their value to the sport in terms of commercial sponsorship. The arrival of video and the prospect of cable television must weaken the near monopolistic position held by the BBC and

From slopes to shops

SKIING

ARTHUR SANDLES

AND SO we say farewell to another ski season. On many a mountain and in many a resort the lifts will run for a few weeks yet, but for most of us Easter marks the time when we pack our skis and boots away for the last time for several months.

It has certainly been an odd year. In much of the Alps and the eastern resorts of the U.S. there was hardly any snow at all in December and early January. After that the weather yo-yoed its way through the winter with warm spells followed by bitter cold. One family would bave a wonderful time in a resort and another a miserable oae only a week later.

Tbe only thing we know about next year is that it will be more expensive for Britons to go skiing at least. The rapid fall in the value of sterling in recent weeks has coincided with the time when ski tour operators are negotiating their contracts, and also with the time when the ski importers are buying their stock.

This is the complete reverse of the now ending season, which saw tour and equipment prices based on what had been a relatively strong pound.

Unless, therefore, you are a complete devotee of fashion now is the time to get out to the sales. Next season many ski manufacturers are indulging in sweeping cosmetic changes in their product lines. The ski shops, therefore, are under considerable pressure to off-load oot-of-date lines. There are plenty of bargains about.

There are so many, in fact, that skiers should beware of buying anything just because of price. Decide what you want first, and then shop, rather than be persuaded into something you did not want.

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Saturday April 2 1983

Mrs Thatcher's luck holds

MRS THATCHER'S formidable qualities need no advertisement. But what of her luck? Looking back over the past 12 months since the invasion of the Falklands even this most remarkable of British prime ministers must surely marvel that so much that might have gone wrong went right, and that much more went right than any normal politician could reasonably have dared hope.

For a start the Labour Party has been working consistently to enhance her position—witness its campaign document for the General Election this week, which wheeled out several nostrums of yesteryear such as the renationalisation of former state industries, more planning, a revamped national enterprise board called the National Investment Bank, enormously increased public spending; everything, in fact, that had been found wanting in the past in Britain and which has more recently been found unmanageable in President Mitterrand's France.

Impressive

As for the newer ideas, some may appear less reassuring to the electorate than to the party faithful. It is impossible, for example, to guess what the outcome of negotiations for withdrawal from the European Community might be; but the Tories can certainly be relied on to make the most of fears about the potential threat to jobs that might result from any less favourable trading arrangements with the remaining members of the Community.

Perhaps the most impressive of Mrs Thatcher's recent gains at Labour's expense has been the decline in the effective sterling exchange rate of 13 per cent since last autumn. In less than six months the foreign exchange markets have thus removed nearly half the electoral platform of shadow chancellor Mr Peter Shore

As well as imparting a powerful boost to the domestic economy, this has mitigated the impact of a declining dollar oil price on the government's revenue from the North Sea. The devaluation of an important national asset has thereby been turned effortlessly to good account, while an excessive overvaluation of sterling which played havoc with the competitiveness of British manufacturing industry last year, has been eliminated.

The prospects for the world economy, and thus for British exports, have also been greatly enhanced by the fall in oil prices.

This stroke of good fortune does, however, pose a dilemma for the Prime Minister in timing the election. The benefits of a more competitive exchange rate will take time to work through to the unemployment figures, which provides an incentive to defer the election date for as long as possible. Yet there are a number of potential tripwires on the more lengthy trek

This week the pound strengthened considerably on the basis of the proposed new pricing deal for North Sea oil which fixed the reference price at $30 a barrel for deliveries through the Brent pipeline, while offering most North Sea production at much cheaper prices of $28.80 and $29.75 depending on the field. The package was cleverly designed to cope with the sensibilities of individual oil companies while avoiding the risk of upsetting Nigeria and other countries in the Opec cartel.

But whether the price structure holds and for how long is something that remains to be seen. If the oil market does weaken, sterling can be expected to fall, so raising the spectre of higher interest rates. At the same time, sterling's decline carries uncomfortable implications for the inflation rate. As the Bank of England pointed out in its March Bulletin this week, foreign suppliers who reacted to the earlier decline in sterling in 1981 by contracting hitherto fat profit margins will feel less inclined to reduce margins when the British domestic market is stronger.

Nor was this the only thing to make people wonder whether the gains won at the cost of 3.5m unemployed will prove uniformly enduring. The trial of strength at BL's volume car division at Cowley between management and unions over management attempts to scrap a few minutes of washing up time allowed to the workforce suggests that some old habits have not gone away.

Mrs Thatcher has already indicated awareness of the electoral timing problems posed by sterling, but has kept her backbenchers guessing, with bets switching ever more frenetically between June and autumn this year and spring 1984. The next big milestones on the way to the General Election are the Cardiff by-election and the local elections, both on May 5; and perhaps, at a pinch, the Williamsburg economic summit at the end of May.

Courageous

According to Mr Donald Regan, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, in an interview with the Financial Times this week, this will produce not a "locomotive" plan to pull the world economy towards recovery, but something more like a team of horses.

Mrs Thatcher hardly needs to use a summit to enhance her prestige. Her authority remains undimmed both in the stock market, where prices lean heavily on her re-election, and the House of Commons, where she courageously and uncharacteristically defended financial support for Argentina last week without visible strain. But if she fails to go to the country after Williamsburg, she will be trusting even more to her luck. How long can it hold?

THE BRITISH ECONOMY

It may be the dawn at last

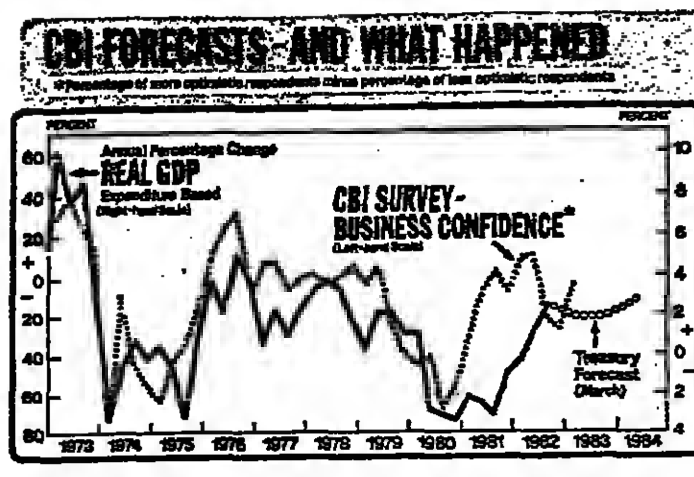
By Anthony Harris

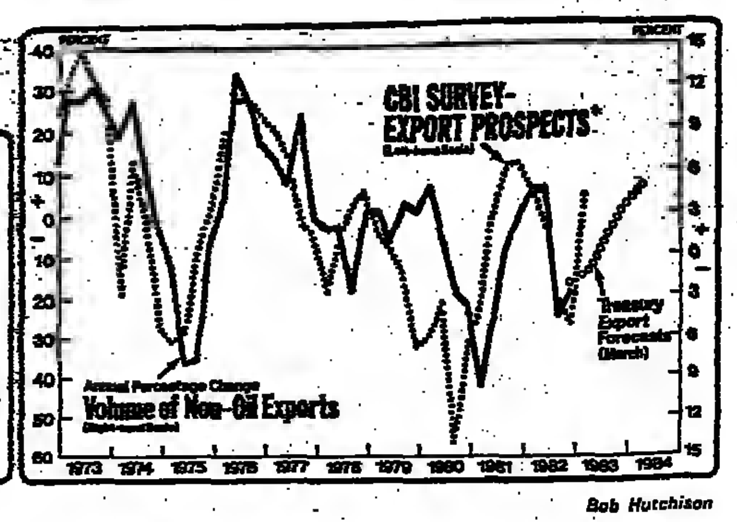
FOR SOME months the Prime Minister and the Chancellor have had very little to say about the immediate prospects for recovery. This reticence is easy to understand, because there are still embarrassing memories of the false dawns which were officially announced last year and in 1981. In the last couple of days, however, they have both revived the recovery theme, and with a new self-confidence. This time, they are convinced, it is going to happen.

This is puzzling, on the face of it, for apart from a sharp rise in car sales and some revival in the house market, it is hard to find much concrete evidence. The trade figures have been disappointing, unemployment is still rising, and the much-heralded U.S. revival is now admitted to be slow and faltering. All the same government optimism is now endorsed by two well-qualified observers who were much more cautious about the earlier hopes—the economists of the Confederation of British Industry and the Bank of England.

Nobody is talking about a boom; but there is growing confidence that the recession is over. The March Treasury forecast of 2 per cent growth this year, which was on the high side of the consensus when it appeared only a fortnight ago, is now becoming generally accepted. Other forecasts are being revised upwards. The Treasury, meanwhile, nurtures an unpublished hope that its own figures are too cautious. The reason for all this new confidence is, ironically, the thing which most worries lay observers, and has taken the steam out of the securities markets—the fall in sterling.

"If this is what North Sea oil does to the economy, perhaps they should leave it where it is." This bitter remark from Sir Michael Edwardes, then chairman of BL, expressed the appalling pressures experienced by British industry when the pound peaked at nearly $2.50, and the Bank of England's index of competitive costs stood more than 50 per cent above its 1975 level.





Bob Hutchison

Exporting became a matter of desperation, and home industries could not hold their markets against import competition. The fact that importers were making abnormal profits of nearly 20 per cent on their British sales only made them ever more determined to win a larger share of the UK market.

In the last six months this destructive engine has gone into reverse. The dollar price of oil has fallen, and sterling has fallen faster. Since UK inflation has recently been no higher than in competing countries, competitiveness has recovered by some 20 per cent from its worst level in 1980, according to the Bank of England. Britain remains a relatively high-cost economy, so that the pressure against inflation remains—for it is the effort to contain home costs in face of murderous competition which has achieved the miracle; but the efficient can now begin to look for profitable business again.

This change provides by far the strongest reason for hoping that this year, unlike 1981 and 1982, the Government's hopes of economic recovery will be fulfilled. We can hardly look forward to a runaway boom, for the world market as a whole remains depressed, and costs are still uncomfortably high. Only 70 of the 500 companies recently surveyed for the FT felt that export margins were now attractive enough to justify an expanded sales drive, for example. All the same, it is a relief to stop banging our heads against the wall.

The relationship between growth and the real exchange rate is very obvious: anything which simultaneously encourages higher exports and stems the tide of imports helps output unambiguously, assuming that there is capacity available.

In the short term this chain of cause and effect is as simple as striking a match; there are none of the ifs and buts which arise when discussing a fiscal "stimulus"—for if borrowing stimulates activity, why is America suffering a record Federal deficit and a long recession at the same time?

In the longer term, there may be reservations: devaluation, simply because it does ease competitive pressures, may encourage costs to rise faster, so that the competitive gain is lost. That is why Mrs Thatcher rejects the Labour prescription of revival through devaluation.

However, if it is simply a matter of easing extreme pressure but sustaining tight conditions, there is no doubt that an exchange rate change is the quick, easy way to do it. The question, in floating markets, is not whether to get a realistic rate, but how; the markets are perverse.

The fact is that although Ministers cannot say so—while they are attacking Labour for recommending more of the same—the fall in sterling has been a large stroke of luck. The trouble is that nobody knows whether it could get out of band—or even, alternatively, whether the pound will perversely bounce up again. As the Bank of England bleakly admits in its quarterly bulletin this week, attempts by its own very high-grade staff to explain what happens in the exchange markets have not so far produced any very impressive results.

The Bank is equally cautious when it comes to predicting the effect of the fall on the economy. This may seem like cowardice, but it is only sensible. Economic forecasting relies on the proposition that history repeats itself, after making the necessary adjustments for the fact that it never does quite repeat itself.

This method breaks down when faced with a historic first; and this is the first time an economy has suffered a 50 per cent fall in competitiveness, followed within three years by a 20 per cent recovery. We are pioneering.

The Bank settles for what looks like a cop-out: "The effect of such large movements in the real exchange rate, alongside the structural change in industry in recent years, is hard to predict, but replies to the February CBI survey indicate an improvement in export order books since last autumn."

This evasion is a matter of robust commonsense; for in a world in which economic models appear unreliable, industrial surveys offer very valuable evidence of what is going on. As the chart shows, the CBI has a very impressive record indeed on export volume. It was quite good on output until last year, when industrialists — like Ministers — were overtaken for a time by quite unjustified optimism.

The recovery stimulated by the sterling move is a full year late — but seems to have arrived just in time to stop the premature hopes of 1982 decaying into renewed despair. The latest monthly survey, reported last Monday, suggests that there will be a further improvement in sentiment by the time of the next quarterly survey in May.

There is further comfort, oddly enough, in the apparently dreadful trade figures since the turn of the year. These show a very sharp rise in imports of materials, semi-manufactured and capital goods. Indeed, these imports by British industry rose twice as fast as imports of consumer goods to compete with British industry—except for explosively growing car imports. Here, however, the market itself is very sharply up.

It is still hard to translate these hopeful signs into numbers. For one thing, de-stocking is still not over; a great majority of CBI members would still like to reduce their stocks (and matching debts to the banks), which means holding production below sales.

More important, the much-heralded American recovery is now slowing down sharply; this could yet prove a false dawn like our last year and for rather similar reasons. World trade, then, may be disappointing. All the same, the CBI economists, who last year refused to believe the Treasury forecasts of recovery, or even to support the views of their own members, are now revising their growth forecasts up to match the Treasury's 2 per cent. A modest number—but quite a change from three years of decline.

ELECTRONICS

FOR MUCH of the British electronics industry, recovery really began last year—and some sectors have barely suffered from recession at all. Probably the best barometer in such a widely-diversified industry is the market for integrated circuits, the raw material for all electronics equipment. British manufacturers' sales rose about 30 per cent in 1982, and similar growth is foreseen this year.

The most dramatic single development has been the surge in demand for personal computers, accompanied by the formation of many small entrepreneurial companies to produce them. IDC Europa, a market research firm, estimates that unit sales of personal computers for business use rose 53 per cent last year. Sales of cheaper home computers, led by the £70 Sinclair ZX-81, almost trebled.

Stronger demand for bigger machines is reflected in the 26 per cent increase in sales and 40 per cent rise in profits reported by IBM's UK subsidiary last year. The company, the biggest computer supplier in Britain, says that many more of its customers are seeking to improve competitiveness by automating.

The telecommunications sector is being violently transformed by the Government's liberalisation programme and a more commercial attitude at British Telecom. It is still unclear, however, how much additional growth the changes will generate, and whether British or foreign suppliers will benefit most.

Sales of consumer electronics have performed well for some time, notably because of the extraordinary popularity of video cassette recorders (VCRs). But higher prices due to EEC curbs on imports from Japan, the main source of supply, and the rising yen may dampen sales later this year. The market for colour televisions is expected to remain buoyant, underpinned by replacement of sets bought during the "Barber boom" a decade ago.

Guy de Jonquieres

CARS

THE ABOLITION of hire purchase restrictions last July acted as a kind of catalyst to get Britain's car market moving again. Demand has been running at close to record levels ever since.

Ford said recently that it believes total new car registrations this year will reach 1.695m. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) argues, however, that Britain needs a 2m-a-year new car market to encourage the multinational producers to invest further in the UK. It wants the 10 per cent special car tax removed to push sales up.

Last year the motor industry trade balance went into the red to the tune of £973m —only the second time in its history that Britain suffered an adverse balance—and the major damage was caused by car imports which accounted for 57.7 per cent of total sales.

Ford has promised to assemble in Britain more of the cars it sells in Britain but will certainly not willingly give up sales if it can import from the Continent, cars to fill gaps left by disputes such as the one on the Escort lines at Halewood.

Whether car output can climb back to over 1m again for the first time since 1979 depends on BL's success on the Continent, which has more to do with new products like Metro and Maestro than anything else, and on whether Iran continues to take car kits from Talbot UK—a political decision. Talbot hopes to export 80,000 to 90,000 of the kits this year, compared with 34,000 in 1982.

Offsetting BL's revival is Ford's decision to source cars for its Far Eastern network from Toyo Kogyo in Japan rather than Ford of Britain. Most observers expect Ford exports of cars from the UK to dry up completely.

Commercial vehicle sales are also on a sharply rising trend, but the benefits are mostly being felt at the lighter end of the market. Demand for heavy trucks remains well below the 1979 peak, and producers are suffering from the intense price competition sparked by their other European rivals.

Kenneth Gooding

CONSTRUCTION

BRITAIN'S CONSTRUCTION industry began to recover last year as output rose for the first time since 1978—and a further modest increase is expected in 1983.

The decline in mortgage interest rates—down 5 percentage points since January, 1982—has prompted a revival in the private housing market. Last year, private housebuilders started work on 140,000 new homes—20 per cent more than in the previous year.

This year builders are expected to start work on between 160,000 and 165,000 new homes, the highest number of private-sector starts since 1973. Public sector housing starts also rose sharply last year.

Private commercial building activity rose 16.4 per cent last year but growth here may have already peaked, and is expected gradually to decline.

As for road building, over the past two years the Department of Transport has taken advantage of weakness in the construction sector to push ahead with new orders, knowing that low tender prices will be the rule rather than the exception.

During 1983-84 a higher level of activity should be ensured by a rise in new orders, and a greater emphasis on repair and maintenance work. The Transport Department is also making major efforts to meet its spending targets and to avoid under spending.

While recovery would appear to be under way in the construction sector, improvements are likely to be modest, and affect only selected parts of the market.

The joint forecasting group of the Building and Civil Engineering Economic Development Committee estimates output will rise about 4 per cent this year. But even then activity will be lagging well behind the levels of the 1970s. Since 1978 Britain's total construction output has declined by about 18 per cent, according to the Environment Department.

Companies likely to gain most from the 1983 upturn are the building materials producers. Contractors, still facing intense competition in many areas, will be operating on extremely low margins.

Andrew Taylor

Letters to the Editor

Through the card

From Mr David Busby.

Sir,—The last jockey to "go through the card" was not as Dominic Wigan suggested in his racing column on March 23, Sir Gordon Richards in 1933. The feat was performed considerably more recently than that—by A. J. (Alec) Russell in the mid-1960s.

David Busby.
5, Nightingale Square, SW12.

Pensions gap

From the Deputy General Secretary, The Civil and Public Services Association

Sir,—Eric Short's piece "Pensions Gap Widens" (March 24) was intended, presumably in view of the heading, to further fan the flames of public indignation about the size of public sector occupational pension increases, which had somewhat died down since the debate on the subject in the House of Commons on October 22.

He *reports that* public sector pensions during the period 1979-81 rose by 44.8 per cent compared with 24.4 per cent for the private sector. He then tells the reader that the average contribution rate to pension schemes was 4.5 per cent of salary for staff and 3.5 per cent for works' schemes. He also gives the corresponding employers' average contributions of 12.9 per cent for staff and 7.3 per cent for works' schemes.

He does not say, however, that these figures apply to the private sector and not the public sector, and he does not trouble himself to give the figures for the public sector. I can assure you that they are much higher. The police, for example pay 11 per cent of their salary for their index linked pension scheme. The Civil Service, on which the majority of abuse was poured before the Commons debate on October 22, pay a contributions of 8½ per cent into a scheme worth around 17 per cent of salary. Not only, therefore, does the civil servant pay nearly twice the average contribution of private sector members of occupational pension schemes, but he also contributes 50 per cent of the total value of the scheme — that's the price of index linked schemes and the civil servant pays the price.

J. N. Ellis,
215 Balham High Road, SW17.

Police Bill

From Mr Jeremy Smith

Sir,—Your editorial (March 25) is far too generous to the dreadful Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. Many of the new powers proposed for the police are triggered by the existence of a "serious arrestable offence" — which is then left to the police to define for themselves. This is completely without justification. The new stop and search powers can only harm police/community relations, and spell out the government's opposition to policing by consent. New powers of arrest for the most trivial of offences can only lead to greater abuse of power by some police officers. As to powers to hold suspects for up to 96 hours before bringing to court following charge, how does this fit in with the suspect's right of silence? If a suspect wants to talk, 24 hours is quite long enough. If he or she does not wish to, what are the extra 3 days in custody for? The only answer is that involuntary confessions are to be obtained. As to roadblocks, the bill clearly provides extra powers that — contrary to your editorial's claim — do not exist at present. If the Bill becomes law, the police could construe their powers to enable them to set up roadblocks at any time in inner city areas. What the Bill is really seeking to do is to legitimise existing unlawful police behaviour. The Bill is a serious threat to traditional democratic liberties; it is ironic that we must look to the Lords to preserve our democratic rights — I hope they are up to the challenge!

Jeremy Smith, Hon Secretary.
Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers,
177, Holland Road, NW10.

Better or worse off

From Mr Robert F. Couldrey

Sir,—I read with interest your table on March 23, showing how the real value of the average earners pay had dropped 4 per cent over the last three years, despite a 39 per cent pay rise.

From our continuous monitoring of different family life styles, the startling influences on whether or not standards rose or fell is the type of house occupied.

If the average earner was living in a council house then, because of high rent rises, he would have needed a 50 per cent rise, in three years, in order to maintain his life style. If he lived in a private house, of the same size, his required rise would have been 28.5 per cent. With an actual pay increase of 39 per cent, as quoted by you, it is easy to spot who is better, or worse off.

Robert F. Couldrey.
Director,
Reward Regional Surveys,
1, Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire

Exporters rejected

From Mr P. J. Russell

Sir,—One would assume from recent media coverage that all sorts of help, financial assistance and guidance is being made available to small export companies like ourselves, but we have found that this is by no means the case.

We have a history of successful trading in, among others, the Nigerian market, and ECGD are continuing to provide limited support in this difficult area. However, our "listening bank" has just informed us that they will not entertain any application for financial assistance covering Nigeria even where ECGD cover has been agreed and our rights, should any claim arise, have been assigned to the bank.

It never ceases to amaze us that the major clearing banks continue to support countries with doubtful or disastrous economies and histories of rescheduling debts but refuse to assist their own domestic customers even where ECGD security is provided! How can we expect to recover our position as a major trading nation when a bank refuses to recognise ECGD as adequate security? Is there anyone out there willing to finance growing export companies with good track records? I would be delighted to hear from them.

P. J. Russell.
Chairman, Scoopberry.
Beechwood,
Orchard Drive,
Woking, Surrey

At a higher pitch

From Mr Michael Kaye

Sir, — The answer to Mr Andrew Clements' query (March 24) regarding the use of an electric organ for "Taras Bulba" was that the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra had elected to play at a higher pitch than the international normal to which the Royal Festival Hall organ is tuned.

Michael Kaye,
General Administrator.
South Bank Concert Halls, SE1.

Cat and mouse

From Mr Henry Law,

Sir,—If, as the Keith Committee has recommended, tax officials must be invested with Gestapo-like powers to reduce (not eliminate) tax evasion, is there not something fundamentally wrong with the method of collecting public revenue? Moreover, stricter enforcement will do nothing to stop the absurd and wasteful cat-and-mouse game of legal avoidance through the use of loopholes, exploitation of allowances, tax havens and other artificial devices.

In comparison, even the maligned local rating system stands up quite well; it is fiddle-proof and, in a rough-and-ready way, just as well related to ability to pay.

Income tax, VAT and National Insurance are not divinely ordained; surely there must be better ways of collecting the revenue needed to govern the country and provide for the welfare of its citizens?

Henry Law,
8 Woodhouse Road,
Hove, Sussex.

Start-up scheme

From Mr R. T. Graffey-Smith.

Sir,—There seems to be some misconception among certain of the stockbroking fraternity about the Government's new Business Expansion Scheme. An extension of the "Start up scheme" introduced in 1981, it allows investors to claim relief at their top rate of tax proportionally to the sum invested (up to £40,000.00) provided the shares are held in unquoted companies for five years.

While there is evidently some antipathy for the "over the counter" market, it is less clear what advantages their activities have for the tax claiming investor. It would surely be the goal of any eligible company ultimately to meet the criteria of the USM, particularly of at least three years' trading in order to secure marketability. However, any timescale much shorter would gainsay the whole purpose of the concessions since they would be nullified if a disposal were made less than five years after the initial commitment.

Instead of carping about the illusory advantages others are supposed to have, those stockbrokers should use their expertise and skills to go out and find businesses with the prospects which justify expansion and capitalise on this latest acceptance by the Government and Tax authorities of the need to treat risk capital favourably commensurate with the risks involved. Who knows— it may presage the abolition of the investment income surcharge itself!

R. T. Graffey-Smith.
Finsbury Circus House.
4-10, Blomfield Street, EC2.

Attitudes to China

From Mr R. Kahatapitiya

Sir,—Your editorial (March 24) bewailing the problems of doing business in China regenerates the very fallacious arguments which produce bitter frustrations to UK companies. With regard to current difficulties you say "In part this can probably be put down to Chinese inexperience in foreign trade and historically to a lack of interest in foreign attitudes" That is the classic type of jingoist statement that could well contribute to a disastrous UK performance in taking a meaningful share of the major opportunities that China offers to industrialised countries.

The onus is surely on countries that have had decades of extensive experience in foreign trade to adjust to the requirement of a country such as China —particularly in a buyers' market which is likely to prevail throughout the 1980s. The fact that the Chinese have over-ambitious planning and projects is a totally irrelevant issue for that in itself should not preclude the more fastidious company from intelligently identifying those projects that have a strong prospect of taking off.

As for the Chinese lack of interest in foreign attitudes this sentiment ought surely to be directed at ourselves and our appalling lack of in-depth study of foreign attitudes before we attempt to market successfully to countries such as China.

R. Kahatapitiya,
Cherryholme,
Kingswood Way, Selsdon,
Surrey

Arthur Smith, Midlands Correspondent, reports on the mood of the shop floor at BL's strike-bound Cowley works

'We might as well tear up our cards . . .'

THE SO-CALLED "washing-up strike" that has halted all car assembly at Cowley, Oxford, and plunged the reviving BL once again into an all-too-familiar industrial relations crisis is complex.

The dispute is in part a sign of rising union militancy on the back of a possible upturn in the economy and the successful launch of a new model, the Maestro. Equally, it is in part another clash in the running battle over "mutuality," the traditional power of the Cowley shop stewards to control the pace of the job: but that power

Shop stewards no longer seek to be quoted

has already been wrested from the shop floor by the assertive management style introduced by Sir Michael Edwardes, the former chairman.

The Maestro, claimed by Austin-Rover to have been BL's most successful launch, has already grabbed nearly 5 per cent of the UK market. The Cowley stoppage is costing around 900 vehicles a day with a showroom value of £8m. The company says the strike will have no short-term impact on sales as stocks around the country are adequate. But the unions have been warned that a prolonged dispute is bound to have consequences for both jobs and investment at Cowley. "We risk customers and potential customers being put off buying our cars by the disastrous publicity Cowley is getting," said a letter sent yesterday to the homes of all Cowley employees.

The unions are putting on a brave face. But they are weak at Cowley and many members are resigned to the fact that they will probably lose the dispute and quite a lot of money besides.

Pressure is coming not from union militants but from the rank and file. The Austin-Rover management, by clamping down on the glaring anomaly of the early finish at the Cowley assembly factory—a practice established decades ago and unique in the BL empire—has united around one issue the many and sectional grievances that have accumulated over many months.

Each worker is personally affected by the fact the management wants him or her to spend an extra six minutes a day in the factory; they are not striking over a remote wage issue, "jam tomorrow" or union loyalty— a strike called a few months ago over the dismissal of Mr Alan "the Mole" Thornett, gained little support.

"Workers at Cowley are conveying one message only. They are saying enough is enough. They are tired of the autocratic actions of an authoritarian management," says Mr David Buckle, Oxford district secretary of the Transport Workers.

Mr Buckle, the scourge of the Left for his role in recent years in bringing the militants at the Cowley assembly plant under official union control, is amused that he finds himself an extremist in his persistent criticisms of the management.

"Over the past five years I have been consistent," he argues. "We have swung from the ultra-Left influence on the shop floor to an ultra-Right management. Neither is good for industrial relations and the pace for raising productivity."

Mr Buckle, though a Labour Party moderate, must be an irritant to the present management with his criticisms on television, radio and the Press. But he insists there is no alternative: "The present management has bred an atmosphere of fear on the shop floor. Well-known senior stewards, like Roy Fraser, Bobby Fryer and Bill Roche, have been warned about their public statements. Austin-Rover cannot dismiss me, so I have to do the talking."

David Buckle, Oxford district secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, at the Cowley plant

Hugh Routledge

Long-serving shop stewards once willing to be quoted have gone silent: "We are a lot of frightened people; in all the years I have been here I never thought it would come to this," says one of the moderates.

The message is the same from the shop floor. Workers in any dispute are often happy to deliver the inflammatory quote but decline to give a name. At Cowley, it seems more widespread than that. Strikers in the Cowley Workers' Club, a barn of a building within easy walking distance of the complex, argue the merits of the dispute but clam up once the reporter's notebook appears.

Company executives express bewilderment when tackled about such secretiveness. "Utter nonsense" is how Mr Tom Gray, the Cowley operations director, dismisses the many criticisms of management style.

A tough-talking Scot who pushed through the successful Metro launch at Longbridge, Birmingham, Mr Gray says: "I don't recognise the criticisms as the factory where I work. When I walk round, and I do so regularly, morale seems high. Workers call to me by my Christian name and ask how things are going."

A senior BL executive complains: "It's all too easy to lump together the abuse about management style. Where are the examples? Let them tell us what they mean."

Get a group of workers together and the complaints flow: Cary, on the Maestro line, who cut his finger on the trim and was offered a piece of masking tape by the foreman to stop the blood; Ken, washing down the car bodies after the first paint, who was given extra work when he complained he was falling behind on time. The grudes are legion, often trivial, and possibly inescapable but a head of steam has built up about "the attitude of management."

There undoubtedly have been upheavals in Cowley over the past two years, partly linked to the £20m investment involved in the introduction of the new Maestro and its planned derivatives. Work practices have been changed, there is flexibility in the use of labour. Manning levels have been reduced, jobs shed and productivity boosted.

But long-serving workers complain that in the process the plant is being dehumanised. "Yes, we needed to make radical changes to be competitive in international markets. Yes, the new machinery is important but we are becoming its slave. At the very time workers should be treated with understanding, management is depersonalised. Production is all. We are merely an adjunct to the machine."

It is in that context that the issue of "washing-up time" becomes emotive. The management insists it must work expensive capacity to the full. Tracks must run for the full 39-hour working week. The convention at Cowley assembly, where the production lines stopped three minutes before time on the morning and afternoon shifts, has to be ended.

In practice, that six minutes a day is not used for washing-up; the bell goes early and workers can leave the plant. Whether they choose to wash is irrelevant. Austin-Rover maintains its moves will yield an extra hour's production time a week, equivalent to more than 100 cars. The unions argue such output is not yet crucial. They say they can produce all the cars the management requires in the time they work. But one director countered: "Such arguments go back to the old piecework system. They are telling us they can deliver the goods and it is none of our concern how they do it. Such attitudes are not compatible with today's sophisticated production techniques."

Trouble has flared first in the assembly plant, the old Morris works, but is already brewing on a related issue in the neighbouring body plant, known until recent weeks as Pressed Steel Fisher. The two factories are now embraced under the Austin-Rover logo but have differing histories and trade union conditions.

The body plant, dominated by the transport union, tends to take a more sophisticated view. There, workers have opted to avoid confrontation on management proposals to cut five minutes a shift—10 minutes a day—from washing up time. Instead, they intend to stop work as normal whether the tracks are running or not. The issue of mass disobedience, bound to lead to disciplinary action, has yet to be put to the test because workers have been laid off in the wake of the assembly plant strike.

At both plants a deep-seated grievance is the controversial productivity-related bonus scheme. Track workers earn around £125 a week, which for some time has included a maximum bonus of £18.75.

However, the body plant, because it has received an official audit from the time and motion engineers, has had the ceiling on the bonus raised to £30. Much to the anger of the assembly plant, their audit is still some two months away.

Mr Buckle is critical of the way the company is continuously reviewing manning levels and pushing for higher productivity: "The lads on the shop floor know they are fighting to get to the top of a greasy pole. As soon as they come within sight of a reasonable reward for effort, the management plasters on more grease."

Privately, the shop stewards acknowledge their weakness in the trial of bargaining strength with the management. In the assembly plant the management has cut the number of full-time shop stewards to only two; the other nine have been sent "back to the tools."

Some sections of workers have no shop stewards. Ian, from the Ambassador line, expresses the fear of many: "To put your name down on the list for election to shop steward is like voting for the sack."

A colleague adds: "It may take four or five hours for the shop steward to come to investi-

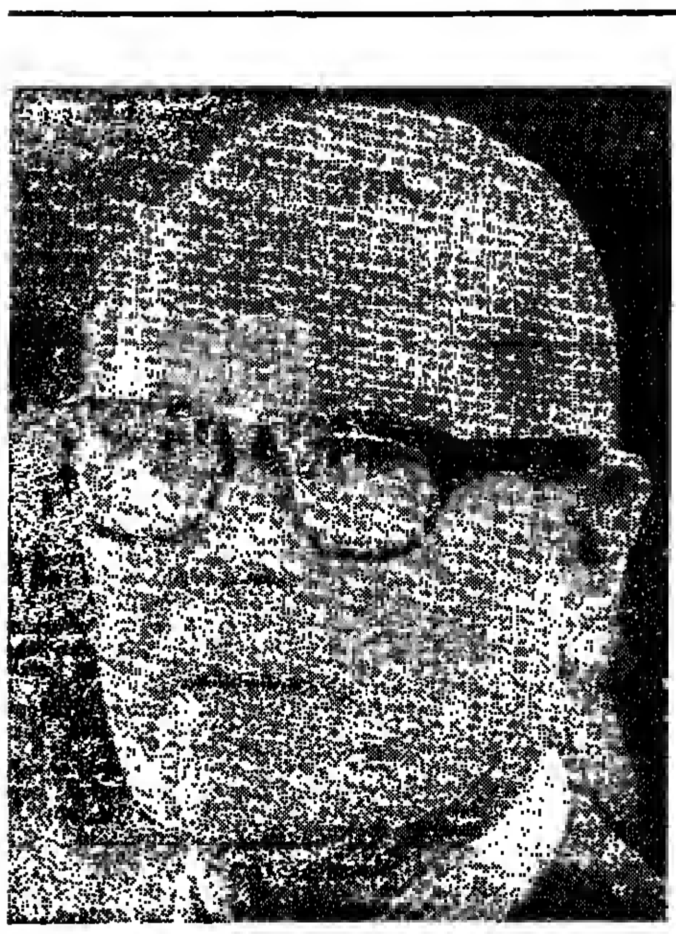
Whether they choose to wash is irrelevant

gate a complaint. By that time you are already committed to do what the foreman says."

Another worker chips in: "We might as well tear up our union cards for all the good they do us."

Joe, a Cowley track worker for 20 years, sums up the feelings of many: "Nowadays, if you want to complain, you are on your own."

Union leaders believe that whatever the outcome of the present dispute, the troubles at Cowley will persist unless management moderates its demands: "This strike merely clouds the issue. There will be constant guerrilla action from the shop floor to try to force management to be more understanding about the problems," one moderate declares.



Weekend Brief

Olivier's Lear for posterity

Tomorrow's great Easter treat is the unveiling on Channel Four of Laurence Olivier's King Lear. The production from Granada was taped in a huge Manchester studio—no location work, no exteriors, no video. And yet there is nothing claustrophobic about the performance. Olivier's monumental interpretation stands in a primitive, mist-laden landscape, Stonehenge under a lowering moon.

Olivier has played Lear only once before, in 1946, when he packed the New Theatre with his Old Vic troupe for a limited run of four dozen performances. But Wolfit had stolen his thunder two years earlier and critics were divided over his performance.

The complaints were about Olivier's comic way with handling old age. Now 75, the actor needs no guesswork on that count. Olivier has been through the mill, both in his career and his private life. He has struggled for years in the face of appalling illnesses, listed with almost unseemly relish in the recent autobiography: everything from pneumonia, gout and cancer of the prostate gland to thrombosis and the muscular disease, dermatopolymyocitis.

He has enjoyed triumphs, suffered flops, but remained indisputably the greatest actor of our century. His third marriage to Joan Plowright has compensated for all the turbulence of the Vivien Leigh years and it is hard to resist a muffled "Hear, hear" when Colin Blakely as Kent surveys the expired corpses of Lear and Cordelia with the comment "The wonder is he hath endured so long: He but usurped his life."

Olivier's resilience is remarkable. Only this week he completed filming in the West Country on a two-hander for HTV, playing opposite Jackie Gleason. Two or three films are in the offing, and he has another commitment to Granada TV in the autumn. At the end of this month he goes to New York, where *Lear* will open the Britain Salutes New York Festival. Meanwhile, on Thursday he flew with his family to Ischia, where he is staying with Lady Walton, widow of his great friend and colleague Sir William.

His preparation for *Lear* was characteristically thorough. He astonished the director, Michael Elliott, and the rest of the cast (which includes such stars in their own right as Diana Rigg, Dorothy Tutin, John Hurt, Leo McKern and—quite outstanding as Edmund—Robert Lindsay) by arriving at the first read-through looking tired and nervous before delivering an overwhelming performance. Mr Elliott looks back on that morning as one of his great experiences in the theatre and attributes the actor's dominance in such situations to his will to live. During rehearsals, Olivier swam 30 lengths each morning to keep in trim.

David Plowright, his brother-in-law and executive producer of *Lear*, says that the vitality comes seeping back into Olivier only when he is working. "Anyone who thinks that this *Lear* is Larry's last Shakespearian hurrah is being daring indeed" he adds.

Lear, in fact, was originally planned for presentation in the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester, where Mr Elliott is artistic director, before the TV recording. But even Olivier had to concede defeat at the prospect of six performances a week. The main thing, though, is that we now have this performance on permanent record. We rely on eye witness reports to know about the acting of Kean, of Garrick, of Irving. Future generations will be able to see for themselves the films of Olivier's *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *Othello*. With *Lear*, he tops the lot and joins hands with posterity.

Lady Olga and the women of Greenham Common

If Fat has become a Feminist Issue, Peace seems set to become a Femine one. Easter weekend has seen the women of Greenham Common organise the biggest anti-bomb demo for years: they have been told by Mrs Thatcher to bang their heads against the Berlin Wall: and Joan Ruddock, the CND chairwoman, has told Mrs Thatcher she is a hypocrite.

All this is disconcerting for men, who can legitimately argue that they will be as much affected by the nuclear holocaust. It is, however, another sign of the phenomenon (already the subject of lucid comment by my colleague Chris Dunkley in his television review on Wednesday) of women debating issues within a wholly female arena, with no or little reference to the "male" debate.

There is an obvious logical problem for women here, which Mary Warnock, the Oxford philosopher, has recently pointed up. If women wish to mark off space within which they are the only ones permitted to comment, either the issues are only of interest to women and of no concern to men—a limited number—or they must claim that all or most issues are susceptible to a feminine or feminist point of view, so that women feel differently about defence, the Common Market, the unions and so on *because they are women*.

This second point of view, implicitly the one taken up by the Greenham Common women in their earlier, women-only demonstrations, is a difficult one to argue consistently, given the evidence that there are male unilateralists and opponents of the cruise missile and female multilateralists and that both have an equal personal stake in survival.

However, some of those women who wish to counter the Greenham Common women have clearly felt impelled to fight on the latter's terrain. This week, Women for Defence was officially launched on the bewildered public, seeking to provide a channel for women's anxieties and, implicitly anyway, supporting the Government's multilateralist, anti-Soviet stance. Lady Olga Maitland, a Sunday Express columnist whom Private Eye persistently refers to as a "fragrant hackette," is a leading member and made it clear at the launch that the issue was a feminine one because of children.

Lady Olga's daughter Camilla, who asked a sympathetic question of her mother during the Press conference (it *is a wise child who knows how* to deflect the hostile questioning of Mummy's fellow hacks and hackettes), was held up as the object of the campaign: Lady Olga said that the desire to protect their young was instinctive to women and thus her organisation would, "woman to woman," explain the need for a strong nuclear deterrent.

There would, she continued recklessly, be material written in a simple way which women could understand. Her colleague Rosemary Brown added that Women for Defence were not anti-men.

The qualification was necessary for, despite the presence in an apparently advisory capacity at the Press conference of Mr Winston Churchill MP, Women for Defence were every bit as separatist as the Greenham Common women whose ideological foes they are. Lady Olga's implicit central contention that women are primarily responsible for children will have sent a thrill of displeasure through feminists, whose pitch has been that such responsibilities have been a prime cause of enslavement and should be jointly shared with fathers to avoid further repression in future. If she attempts to take her message to wider audiences than the Tory Party—all the Women for Defence organisers are presently Conservatives—she may well find it uphill work.

She may also legitimately point out that those she opposes have asked for it. Whether the campaign is called Women for Peace or Women for Defence, the root assumption is the same, if expressed differently. It is clearly time for men to get back into the debate.

Virgin and Virago at the Barbican

Virgin will be at the Barbican next week, but not Virago. Jane will be there, and so will Prosperity, International Planned Parenthood, the World Bank, and Bee Books New and Old. The 13th London Book Fair takes the stands at the Barbican Exhibition Halls from 6-8 April, with over 300 UK publishers, 50 overseas exhibitors, and assorted trade associations, printers, book packagers, and wholesalers taking part.

Not many publishers offering books and publication rights to an international market would be happy to find their stand cheek-by-jowl with one of the 15 Overstock and Remainder stands dotted discreetly around the halls. But even the most gung-ho exhibitor will admit that now and again a book can draw the losing straw. Penny Phipps, whose Books Promotions handles publicity for many a book and its author, will be on hand with comfort and advice on Stand 215.

London is only a fraction of the size of Frankfurt, the major international book trade fixture of the year, so large that visitors are advised to take advantage of the mini-coach transport provided to wheel them around the huge halls. Both Fairs deal mainly in rights, not just books; and both, irritatingly, are "trade only"—members of the public are not admitted, although "academic" status will get you through the door. Martyn Goff, of the National Book League, is all for fairs, as he is for anything which will help to promote books, though he wishes the general public could have more of a look-in than at present. "Why shouldn't the Fair have a day when ordinary readers can go—say the last day, or even half a day?"

Exhibitors at the London Fair face "a test of speed, performance and agility," the Booksellers' Association said with a sigh, tied to a split-minute schedule for unloading their wares and setting up at the Barbican. Charges for stands run from £175 for a table top and a chair in the "Small Presses" area (small publishers, a clutch of photo libraries, Bee Books, bee buffs, and maybe even some bees) to £3,480 for 37.1 square metres, the largest stand at the three-day event.

Not all the major UK publishers participate. Weidenfeld, Macmillan, Longman, The Bodley Head, Secker and Warburg, and Chatto will not be at the Barbican. "Some of us have different patterns of trading," said Roger Kirkpatrick, marketing director of Jonathan Cape. "It may help others, but it doesn't help us." But smaller, and academic, houses will hope to add to the balance of payments by foreign rights sold next week. The London Book Fair had 12,000 visitors last year.

Contributors:
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Lucas Industries suffers interim loss of £5.2m

AFTER MUCH higher provisions for redundancies and closures of £8.1m against £2.3m, Lucas Industries, vehicle and aircraft accessory manufacturer suffered taxable losses of £5.2m for the half year ended January 31, 1983, compared with profits of £7m last time. Sales were down from £601.7m to £583.8m.

Disappointing results arose mainly from poor trading conditions which prevailed in the vehicle industry in the UK and some overseas markets.

These are continuing and while there has been some recent increase in demand for cars in the UK and some indications of an improvement in the U.S. economy, these changes have not yet led to any gains in trading results, directors state.

Outcome for the full year, they say, will depend on trends in the UK and overseas markets in the coming months, but present indications are that there will not be a marked improvement during the rest of 1982/83.

Lucas came back into profit last year and finished the 12 months to the end of July 1982 with pre-tax profits of £20.2m (£21.4m losses).

The interim dividend is maintained at 2.6p net per £1 share—last year's final was 6p—but directors say it should not be taken as an indication of the final payment which will be determined against the background of trading conditions at the time.

Sales to the UK vehicle industry were down and the subsidiaries concerned produced a loss before tax of £19m, after charging redundancy and closure costs of £6.75m. There were also poor results from companies concerned with the vehicle industries in the U.S., S. Africa and France.

Total sales of aircraft equipment were at a similar level of last year. Sales in the UK were 9 per cent down—reflecting the lower demand for equipment for Rolls Royce civil aircraft engines—but increased sales overseas, particularly in Europe, largely offset this reduction. Profits before tax of £8.6m were only slightly down on last year.

Struck after research and development expenditure of £30.9m (£28.2m) trading profits for the six months amounted to £17.8m, a fall of £5m on last time. There were associate losses of £0.7m (£1.4m profit) and interest charges took £14.2m.

Tax was £5.2m (£4.8m) and minorities took £0.9m (£0.4m). Loss per share is given as 11.9p compared with earnings of 1.9p.

See Lex

Grampian Hldgs. sharply lower

ALTHOUGH second half pre-tax profits at Grampian Holdings improved from £667,000 to £709,000, figures for 1982 as a whole were considerably lower at £425,000 against £1.04m. The group incurred losses of £284,000 in the first half against profits of £373,000.

Turnover of this industrial holding company with interests in construction, transport and plant hire, and light engineering, fell slightly from £58.37m to £58.07m.

The directors say that trading since the start of the current year has been at a level which, if maintained, should ensure that the businesses retained will at least equal their 1982 profits. On this basis, they feel justified in recommending an unchanged final dividend of 3p for a same-again total of 4.5p net.

Interest and other charges rose from £438,000 to £466,000, minorities took £5,000 (£10,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £4.91m (£1.37m)—the result of action taken to withdraw from loss-making activities. Stated earnings per 25p share fell from 7.2p to 1.22p.

The board says a contract has been entered into for the sale of the entire issued share capital of Rose Morris and Company to the directors and certain senior managers of Rose Morris and to Finance for Industry (UK Finance).

During 1982, Rose Morris traded at a loss. The amount to be received by Grampian on completion is £350,000. As an effect of this transaction, the net reduction in Grampian group reserves will amount to £723,000.

● comment

Conglomerates are not high fashion these days, and Grampian Holdings, for all the best reasons, has been almost frantic in shedding its formerly amorphous image. In so doing it has provided enough material for a thesis on management buy outs. The one unfortunate side effect past two years reserves have been chopped by 40 per cent, and last year gearing rose from under 40 per cent to over 65 per cent. In the short term therefore Grampian's chief concern must be to reduce borrowings, and the slimmed down company should be cash generative enough to achieve that without resorting to any more disposals. Encouragingly, the animal medicines business, acquired for £1m last March, has added £250,000 to profits after financing charges, and is making the sort of margins that Grampian is finding hard to find in its more traditional activities. Those institutions who hold about 80 per cent of Grampian's equity were not in the least surprised that the dividend was maintained, uncovered, against the background of a retained loss of £5.25m. The shares did not budge from 52p all day, giving the income funds a rewarding 13 per cent yield. If Grampian's confidence is to be justified by events, it should make at least £1.25m this year. That indicates a prospective fully taxed p/e of about 8.3. Perhaps the recovery funds should make the trip to Glasgow.

Reed Executive deficit halved

ALTHOUGH THE 12 months ended January 1 1983 were again very tough for Reed Executive, the employment agent, consultant, drug store operator and travel agent, the group managed to half its losses over the period.

Turnover was virtually maintained at £33.92m, against £33.19m, but at the pre-tax level the loss was cut from £1.65m to £820,000, after higher depreciation of £720,000 (£514,000) and an increased charge for interest at £291,000, compared with £261,000 previously.

The directors say the results were considerably better than those of 1981 and as forecast in the interim statement (losses then were down from £970,000 to £752,000) the second half continued the improving trend.

This progress has continued during the first quarter of the current year.

The dividend for 1982 is again a nominal 0.1p per 10p share, which was paid as an interim.

Tax credits were the same at £28,000 but there was a debit of £692,000 for extraordinary items. There was a transfer to non-distributable reserves of £249,000 last year.

The extraordinary item occurred from the rationalisation of the employment agencies branch network and represent the cost incurred from the time of closure to the anticipated time of the disposal of the branch.

In his interim statement the chairman revealed that 28 employment and travel agencies branches had been closed in the nine months to end-September 1982.

● comment

The success of the Superdrug quotation underlines the potential value to Reed Executive of its Medicare chemist chain. This makes it doubly startling to see the subsidiary's 1982 trading losses nearly double to £204,000. The company attributes this to a disruption in supplies caused by a change in warehousing and says *Medicare should at least* break even in the current year following management changes and the introduction of a new warehousing style. Group losses halved on a slight increase in turnover. This improvement was entirely due to the reduction in costs resulting from the closure of 34 employment offices. The company has recognised that low volumes are here to stay; a realisation which is also being put into action in the travel agency division, where 10 out of 15 branches have been closed since the interim. Travel losses increased nearly six-fold to £123,000, aggravated by the failure of earlier attempts to convert former employment offices into profitable travel agencies. The share price rose 1p to 31p.

Nu-Swift hits target with £0.9m for 1982

IN LINE with last September's forecast, pre-tax profits of fire extinguisher group Nu-Swift Industries reached £904,000 for 1982, an improvement of £338,000 over the figures of the previous year.

Management accounts for the first two months of 1983 show a "significant" improvement and subject to unforeseen circumstances a substantial increase in pre-tax profits is expected for the full 12 months.

The directors point out that since last year's involvement with September Purchasing of the U.S., which now has a 29.9 per cent stake in Nu-Swift, staff levels have been reduced by some 20 per cent, the range of extinguishers rationalised, prices generally increased, a severe overhead reduction programme implemented and factory production reorganised.

The dividend for 1982 is being held at 2.135p per 5p share by a same-again final of 1.21p—earnings per share were also the same at 1.9p.

Turnover expanded from £12.87m to £13.93m. Tax charge rose sharply by £336,000 to £519,000.

Below the line minorities accounted for £5,000 (£2,000) and extraordinary debits £165,000—these were made up as to £48,000 reorganisation costs and £117,000 regarding last year's unsuccessful bid for the group by Mosspray.

The profit forecast for 1982 was made in a circular to shareholders which advised them not to accept the Mosspray bid. The chairman said the forecast figure demonstrated a real improvement and arose principally as a result of reorganisation. He added that it also reinforced the directors' view that the cash offer was inadequate and should be rejected.

● comment

Nu-Swift's latest profit recovery contains no surprises. The company itself provided a pretty accurate profit forecast some seven months ago as part of its defence against an aggressive (but unsuccessful) takeover bid by Mosspray. The new major shareholder, September Purchasing, is plainly bent on achieving further growth through productivity gains. But whether its involvement will improve the standard of Nu-Swift's disclosure remains to be seen. Meanwhile, smaller shareholders have precious little to go on. Most of the improvement last year is believed to have come from the service and maintenance division, which has proved resilient during the recessionary years. The benefits of cost reductions began to show through last year, though profits have managed only a return to the level of three years ago. The contribution from overseas interests is unquantified. Losses, though reduced, are continuing in Australia and Nu-Swift has done little to improve its undistinguised overseas record. Redundancy payments are likely to impact this year, but will be offset by accompanying cost savings. The share price gained 2p yesterday to 73p for a yield of 4.2 per cent.

Securiguard coming to the USM

The Securiguard Group is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market later this month. The company is the holding company of Academy Cleaning Services, which provides office cleaning services, and Securiguard Services, which provides security services.

In the year to October 1982 Securiguard Group turned in some £300,000 pre-tax, three times the previous year's level, on turnover of £6.6m. The company says that following its rapid development it is coming to the USM to allow the raising of funds for further development and to enable shareholders to realise part of their investment.

Academy Cleaning was founded by Robin Pritchard in 1961, having previously worked for Pritchard Services Group, a business founded by his family. In 1977 Alan Baldwin, now the chairman of Securiguard Group, was appointed managing director of Academy to develop its marketing activities, enabling the company to compete more successfully for larger contracts.

In 1979 Securiguard was started to provide guards, store detectives and alarm services. According to Mr Baldwin: "We are the fourth largest man guarding company in the UK."

An indication of the rapid growth of the security side of the business, is that, despite being little more than three years old, it now accounts for over half of the group's turnover.

Securiguard had about 140 contracts by the end of last year, with no single contract accounting for more than 6 per cent of turnover. The company's security contracts are all based in the south of England, with the exception of a contract for the Civil Aviation Authority in the Shetlands.

Apart from its alarm control centre in Basingstoke, the company has not sought to enter the alarm and security equipment manufacture and installation business, but the company is closely examining the possibility of entering that market. Mr Baldwin says: "We have looked at a number of companies in that field."

The group has a total of about 2,000 employees, of whom most are hourly paid, but the company claims that its job turnover is less than the average for its type of business.

Academy Cleaning operates about 190 contracts, with the ten largest accounting for about 40 per cent of turnover. It operates some substantial public sector contracts, and says it has a number of other "blue chip" clients.

Academy has not yet tendered extensively for the large council street cleaning contracts, because of the capital intensive nature of that business, but it is believed that this policy could change once the company has gone public.

There are no shareholders in the group other than the directors. It is intended to come to the USM by way of a placing, and it is believed that about 20 per cent of the enlarged equity will be made available to the public, twice the USM minimum.

Securiguard Group's brokers are Phillips & Drew.

Ibstock £1.4m in red: better outlook

LOSSES IN its Netherlands—since sold—and U.S. divisions has resulted in Ibstock Johnsen reporting pre-tax losses of £1.41m for 1982. This manufacturer of premium facing bricks had profits of £175,000 in the previous year.

Trading profits fell from £3.44m to £2.89m, with the UK contribution improving from £4.99m to £6.68m. The trading losses in the Netherlands rose from £1.01m to £2.47m, and U.S. losses were up from £534,000 to £1.33m. The fibres division had trading profits of £402,000, but these were well down on the previous year's £1.04m.

Group turnover rose from £60.35m to £66.34m. The pre-tax figure was after group expenses of £678,000 compared with £619,000 and higher interest charges of £4.02m against £3.69m. Tax took £1.11m (£116,000), and there was an extraordinary debit of £6.3m (£694,000 credit). The loss per share was 8.81p

The total dividend is unchanged at 4.5p with a same-again final of 3p net.

The directors say that with the Dutch company having been sold, with turnover in the UK in the first quarter up 30 per cent on the corresponding period last year, the U.S. looking to be heading for recovery, and the winter behind it, the company is healthy and the outlook is much improved.

The first half-year will see a modest return to profit, marking a turnround in the company's fortunes.

Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, the chairman, adds that the result is in line with his forecast last December at the time of the merger approach from London Brick. Since then, several factors have thrown a much more favourable light on prospects. In March, the sale of the Dutch company ended trading losses.

● comment

Few people, apart from possibly the *Monopolies* Commission, would argue against the logic of merger with either London Brick or Redland, but Ibstock Johnsen looks set to upset all those carefully worked bid equations An upturn in demand at home and in the U.S. together with the prudent disposal of the troubled Dutch offshoot, promise to make 1982 very much water under the bridge and give would be suitors' actions a very opportunistic air. The Ibstock board, understandably, will give no indication of its own desires for the outcome other than a wish "to act in the best interests of shareholders." Come August, when the Commission's report is expected, and those best interests could be a long way from those original offers. Mid year figures should give some pointer to the turnround which by year end with Dutch losses removed, the U.S. in profit and heading towards break-even over the period, some £7m or so off borrowing and, at least, a similar performance in the UK, would put the pre-tax total strongly back in the black at well over £4m. But that should be only the beginning. Expansion into the U.S. begun in 1978 when profits were over £5m on 50 per cent lower sales, is finally showing signs of producing its prematurely forecast fruits. On Thursday the brighter outlook lifted Ibstock's shares 5p to 124p capitalising the group at £35.4m compared with the £32.4m cash value of Redland's bid. The share value of Redland's offer on Thursday would have been £38.2m and London Brick's £32.9m.

Allied Residential chief to step down

MR MICHAEL HEATHCOTE, chairman of *Allied Residential*, the troubled house-building group, is to resign from the board. He will step down after an extraordinary shareholders' meeting planned for April 25 to approve the purchase of a property portfolio from Taddale Investments to be funded by an issue of shares.

Allied will acquire a portfolio worth £2.78m at December 31 1982 with estimated net annual current rents of £293,522 and will issue 19.86m shares.

Allied also proposes making a one-for-one rights issue at 14p per share to raise about £1.35m after expenses. The shares issued to Taddale will not rank for the rights issue. Allied will use the funds raised to reduce borrowings.

Upon completion of the acquisition agreement Taddale will be obliged to make a cash offer to buy all the 7.14m shares on issue at February 28 1983 not owned by itself. The offer price will be 14½p.

Following the shareholders' meeting, Allied will apply for the relisting of its entire capital. The shares have been suspended since December 9.

Upon the resignation of Mr Heathcote, Mr D. Walsh will become non-executive chairman. Mr Graham Maw will continue as managing director.

Mr D. I. Dennet will join the board as construction director. Mr J. S. Smith will join as an executive director responsible for managing the Taddale portfolio. Mr J. R. Templeton and Mr M. R. Carlton will join the board.

The pro-forma balance sheet shows the consolidated net asset value of the restructured group would be £5.03m.

The new board plans to expand the group's housebuilding activities and will add to its property portfolio by investments in further residential, investment and development properties and companies in the UK.

BIDS AND DEALS

Cope Allman forecasts queried

The directors of Cope Allman, the packaging, leisure and engineering group, increased their earnings at a time when shareholders' funds were falling, Dowable, the consortium which is bidding £23.7m, has charged in a letter to Cope's shareholders.

Directors' remuneration rose 38 per cent in the two years ended July 3 1982 while shareholders' funds fell 16 per cent, Dowable said.

It also pointed to a 24 per cent rise in office expenses in the six months ended December 31 1982 and queried whether Cope's forecast 3.8 per cent return on net assets was satisfactory. Dowable questioned whether Cope would sustain the forecast improvement in profits reported for the six months ending July 2 1983, noting the uneven profits performance on a six-months basis since 1980.

Dowable also said it believed that Cope was unlikely to find an acceptable purchaser for its Nutt and Muddle business in Australia although its profit forecast was based on the assumption a sale would go through.

The first closing date for the offer is April 6. Dowable has built up a stake of 18.2 per cent in Cope. The bidding consortium comprises British Car Auctions, the Hawley Group, which has leisure interests, Lin Pac, the packaging concern and the Robert Fleming investment trust group.

Cope's shares were an unchanged 60p on Thursday—on a par with the offer price.

GOOD RELATIONS

Good Relations Group has entered into agreement for the acquisition of Abel Hadden Associates. Consideration will be satisfied by the issue of 35,500 ordinary shares.

Abel is a London-based consumer public relations consultancy which started trading in May 1981.

For the first ten months trading to the end of March 1982 Abel's turnover was £71,000. Management accounts for the 11 months to the end of February indicate a turnover of £175,000.

Consortium in bid for Atlanta

BY TERRY GARRETT

A CONSORTIUM backed by Kuwaiti money is making a surprise counter cash offer for Atlanta, Baltimore and Chicago Regional Investment Trust, a small fund managed by Williams and Glyn's Bank currently under attack from unitisation proposals by Arbuthnot Latham.

No contact was made with the directors of Atlanta prior to the public announcement of the offer late Thursday morning, and the bid met with a predictably frosty reception from the board which has been battling against Arbuthnot's attempts to put Atlanta and its sister trust, West Coast and Texas Regional, into its Arbuthnot North American fund.

The consortium has been put together by Mr Tony Cole, managing director of Morrison Stoneham Investment Management, the investment arm of a firm of London-based chartered accountants.

The offer will be pitched at 94 per cent of net asset value. If the bid is successful it is the consortium's intention for stockbrokers Statham Duff Stoop to place up to 80 per cent of the capital with institutional and private clients so as to maintain Atlanta's stock market quote.

The aim is for the consortium to control 20 per cent of the company.

Mr Cole said on Thursday that *he had picked on Atlanta because* he is "against unitisation in quite a big way and felt a more imaginative management could show an alternative."

It would be his intention to convert the trust into a short dated two-tier trust — but not a traditional split level company — and develop Atlanta into other related financial services such as investment management, money and foreign exchange dealing, banking, insurance broking and property investments.

The consortium also stunned the Atlanta directors by inviting Sir Clement Penruddock, Atlanta's chairman, and Mr David Maitland, a director, to remain on the board if the deal went through.

Atlanta quickly put out a riposte making it clear the directors were not agreeing to the offer and had no intention of staying on the board if Atlanta was acquired.

If the offer is declared unconditional Mr Cole would be appointed managing director of Atlanta and would be joined by Mr A. J. Glogowski, an associate director of Daiwa Europe, and Mr Bader Rodan would join in a non-executive capacity.

However the consortium's *chance of success* with these terms looked fairly remote Thursday night.

Merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson which advises clients holding around a fifth of Atlanta's equity, and is opposing Arbuthnot's unitisation hopes, was unimpressed by the initial offer.

Mr Richard Carswell of Arbuthnot Latham holding 12.5 per cent said he did not think his company would be tempted to take it. Yet if Arbuthnot's unitisation *proposals were defeated at the extraordinary meeting on April 13*, it could offer a chance to unwind its holding at a profit.

The consortium is headed by Morgan Credit whose major shareholders include Mr Bader Rodan (30 per cent), Dr Yassaf Al Sabah (20 per cent) and Exchange Finance House of Kuwait (30 per cent). Morgan Credit has 30 per cent of the consortium which includes Rodan Group with 20 per cent, Gas Petroleum 20 per cent, Moyed Rodan 10 per *cent, Mohammed Al Sabah 10* per cent, Mr A. Glogowski 5 per cent and Mr A. Cole 5 per cent.

Robin Eve to chair Tring Hall

Commercial Development Finance Corporation, a Luxembourg holding company headed by Mr Shakirullah Durrani, a former governor of the International Monetary Fund, said that Mr Robin Eve, a director of Midland Bank Industrial Finance, is to chair Tring Hall Securities.

The move follows agitation by shareholders for board changes following a merger last year by Commercial Development with Tring Hall, the issuing house and financial services company which specialises in bringing companies to the Unlisted Securities Market.

Mr Eve takes on the job of chairman of Tring Hall in place of Mr D. G. Hanson, who resigned some time ago. Mr Eve is to join the board of Commercial Development.

Mr Denis Poll and Mr Durrani are to continue as group managing director and chairman respectively. A circular is to be sent to shareholders outlining the group's current plans.

Major shareholders who had accepted the all-share merger terms of Commercial Development were becoming restive that the promised benefits of the merger had not materialised. Last October's offer document had said that "further growth of a shareholder's investment should be facilitated by the improved status of the merged group and its consequent ability to attract additional capital."

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

STANLEY MILLER HOLDINGS (building contractor and civil engineer)—Final 1p, making 6p (nil) net for 1982. Turnover: £17.17m (£15.25m). Operating profit £49,000 (£242,000 loss). Pre-tax profit £460,000 (£72,000 loss), including associate companies £411,000 (£170,000). Tax £137,000 (£57,000 credit). Minorities £1,000 (£2,000). Earnings per 10p share 5.35p (loss 0.28p) CCA pre-tax profit £270,000 (loss £210,000).

ALLIED COMMERCIAL (ISLE OF MAN)—Philip Ramsbottom, partner in Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co., has been appointed receiver and manager of the company which is a property developer and wholly-owned subsidiary of Pennine Commercial Holdings.

STANDARD INDUSTRIAL GROUP (watch and clock importer)—Results for six months ended December 31, 1982: Sales £2.71m (£3.41m), pre-tax loss £353,000 (£72,000) after interest £124,000 (£183,000), tax credit £24,000 (nil), extraordinary debit nil (£68,000), loss per share 5.57p (2.74p).

MAGNOLIA GROUP (MOULDINGS) (manufacturer and importer of picture frame mouldings)—Final dividend for 1982, 1.7p (same) for unchanged total of 2.3p. Pre-tax profit £702,000 (£857,000): turnover £8.47m (£8.34m): UK trading profit £731,000 (£857,000), overseas trading loss £29,000 (£1,000). tax £205,000 (£297,000): extraordinary debit £113,000 (£24,000). Earnings per 10p share 3.68p (8.91p). Overseas trading loss has been incurred principally by the Dutch subsidiary, which the directors say is to be closed.

W. TYZACK, SONS AND TURNER (engineer)—Results for 26 weeks ended January 29, 1983: No interim dividend (0.5p): turnover £2.29m (£2.27m): pre-tax loss £264,000 (£55,000 profit): tax nil (£4,000): extraordinary debit £22,000 (nil): attributable loss £286,000 (£51,000 profit): loss per share 14.8p (2.8p earnings).

GIBBS AND DANDY (builders' merchant, ironmonger, tool merchant and electrical wholesaler)—Turnover £13.76m (£14.01m) for 1982. Pre-tax profit £302,661 (£349,175). Tax £17,872 (£26,574 credit), leaving £284,789 (£375,749). Dividend 1.4p (same). Earnings per 10p share 3.5p (4.5p).

FLOYD OIL PARTICIPATIONS (oil exploration)—Results for half year ended December 31 1982: turnover £120,268 (£31,123), pre-tax profit £58,629 (£56,640 loss): tax credit £8,495 (£37,500 charge).

Results due next week

CURRENCY GAINS will have considerably enhanced BAT Industries' year-end profit figures, due on Thursday, though translation of dollar profits has given rise to a wide variance in analysts' estimates.

Pre-tax estimates now fall mainly between £795m and £820m (£684m), with forecasters at the top end of the range assuming that currency translation accounted for roughly half the profit advance.

The tobacco division, which is expected to have contributed close to 80 per cent of overall trading profits, has successfully restored margins, though volumes declined further in the year's second half.

A flat performance from U.S. and UK retailing has inhibited underlying growth, but the paper business should continue to reflect improved operating efficiencies. The market expects an increased final of 13.5p net, making a dividend total of 26p (23p), when the results are announced.

The insurance composite reporting season winds up next Wednesday when Sun Alliance Group and Phoenix Assurance report their 1982 results. Both should show a recovery in the second half from the poor results of the first six months, when underwriting losses soared and pre-tax profits were drastically cut.

The weather in the UK has been better and there are signs of a more realistic approach in *competing for business—important* for Sun Alliance, the biggest household insurer in the UK with a large UK commercial fire portfolio.

Phoenix is more affected by continuing competition for private motor business. Nevertheless, underwriting losses for the year are expected to double for Sun Alliance to £75m and jump by half to £55m for Phoenix.

Both groups should show useful rises in investment income and life profits, resulting in pre-tax profits for both Sun Alliance and Phoenix dropping by one-third to around £50m and £20m respectively. They left their interim dividends unchanged, but the market looks for at least a 2p increase to 45p overall from Sun Alliance, though an increase from Phoenix seems less certain.

Early predictions of increased consumer spending boosting leisure group Ladbroke's profits were not borne out by dull interim results and final figures, due out on Thursday, are expected to show only a slight improvement at about £35m for the year ended December. Betting, still a major earner, had another difficult year, according to analysts, and the performance of the increasingly important property division caused concern.

However, the success of the Laskys retail electrical chain, helped by the growth in home computer sales, looks to have more than offset possible shortfalls. The hotel side should show reasonable returns after a year when costs were kept down and occupancy rates up. An increased dividend is widely predicted, at about 7.9p per share from 7.4p, and analysts are looking to better times ahead.

Croda had no reason to be conservative when it forecast a 56 per cent rise in 1982 pre-tax profits to £16m at the time of Burmah Oil's abortive takeover bid. So it is no surprise that it looks set to announce more like £14m-£14.5m when its preliminary figures come out on Thursday.

Chemical volume has declined more than expected and overseas contributions have been below target. The company's plans to sell its capital intensive synthetic division should relieve it of a substantial burden in 1983. It will take a great deal, however, to shift Croda from its promise to nearly double the total net dividend to 7p, which would yield a respectable 9.2 per cent, assuming a share price of 113p.

Both Johnson Group Cleaners and the British Printing and Communications Group will be *announcing full year figures on* Tuesday. The following day Christies International will make its preliminary announcement.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDENDS				
APV Holdings	Tuesday	2.8	6.8	2.8
Armitage Brothers	Friday	—	27.0	—
Baird (William)	Thursday	5.6	7.35	5.6
BAT Industries	Thursday	14.5†	8.5	12.5
Brammer	Wednesday	2.0	3.7	2.0
British Printing & Communication Cpn.	Tuesday	—	—	—
Bridon Vending Industries	Thursday	—	—	0.35
Bruntons (Musselburgh)	Wednesday	4.25	5.92	4.25
Christies International	Wednesday	2.0	5.0	2.0
Coates Brothers	Wednesday	0.88	2.42	1.0
Cookson Group	Thursday	3.7	5.96	3.7
Croda International	Thursday	1.5	2.25	3.0
Greenland Electrical Appliances	Thursday	0.35	—	0.35
Emmy	Friday	—	0.6	—
Erith	Thursday	1.25	2.75	1.4
Finlay Packaging	Thursday	0.5	1.75	0.5
Fothergill and Harvey	Wednesday	2.75	5.0	2.75
Insurance Corpn. of Ireland	Friday	2.496	8.136	2.496
Jacobs (John I.)	Wednesday	0.7	1.6	0.7
Johnson Group Cleaners	Tuesday	2.15	5.55	2.6
Ladbroke Group	Thursday	3.605	3.827	3.7
Lyle Shipping	Friday	4.5	5.5	4.5
Morrison (Wm.) Supermarkets	Thursday	0.4	1.0	0.46
North British Canadian Investment	Friday	1.75	3.35	1.75
Phoenix Assurance	Wednesday	7.3	9.5	7.3
Senior Engineering Group	Friday	0.75	0.75	0.75
Sharna Ware	Tuesday	0.7	1.03455	0.9
Sperrow (G. W.) and Sons	Wednesday	0.5	0.25	0.25
Stewart Wrightson Holdings	Thursday	3.85	9.15	3.85
Sumner (Francis) Holdings	Thursday	—	—	—
Sun Alliance and London Insurance	Wednesday	19.5	23.5	18.5
Upton (E.) and Sons	Friday	0.5	—	—
Wills (Geo.) and Sons (Hldgs.)	Friday	2.0	4.0	2.5
Wood (Arthur) and Son (Longport)	Wednesday	—	—	—
York Mount Group	Wednesday	—	2.1	2.0
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Beckman (A.)	Wednesday	1.95	3.78	
Burgess Products (Holdings)	Thursday	0.5	3.0	
Ferry Pickering Group	Thursday	0.909	1.691	
Ingall Industries	Tuesday	0.89	1.86	
New Court Trust	Tuesday	4.125	9.0	
Photo-Me International	Thursday	3.15	6.3	
Scottish Metropolitan Property	Friday	1.36364	1.18182	
Trident Computer Services	Wednesday	0.5	1.0	
"W" Ribbon Holdings	Thursday			
INTERIM FIGURES				
Druck Holdings	Thursday			

* Dividends are shown net pence per share and adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † Total of first and second interim dividends.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corre-sponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Arbuthnot Doll. 3rd int.	3§	May 13	4	—	17.2
Bambers Stores	0.25	May 20	0.9	0.25	1.7
Breedon Cloud	6	—	5	8.63	7.63
Conder Intnl.	Nil	—	2.5	1.5	4
Danks Gowerton ...int.	0.25	May 14	0.25	—	0.75
Desoutter Bros.	3	May 15	3	5.7	5.7
Elys (Wimbledon)	6	May 26	4.85	7	5.85
Gibbs and Dandy	1.4	May 20	1.4	1.4	1.4
Grampian Hldgs.	3	—	3	4.5	4.5
Hanger Invs.	Nil	—	0.5	Nil	0.5
Ibstock Johnsen	3	May 20	3	4.5	4.5
Lucas Inds. ...int.	2.6	May 16	2.6	—	8.6
Magnolia Gp.	1.7	May 27	1.7	2.3	2.3
Stanley Miller	1	May 25	Nil	1	Nil
Nu-Swift	1.21	April 5	1.21	2.14	2.14
Reed Executive	Nil	—	Nil	0.1	0.1
Thurgar Bardex	Nil	—	0.6	Nil	0.9
W. Tyzack ...int.	Nil	—	0.5	—	1.5

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ USM Stock. § U.S. cents throughout.

BANK RETURN

BANKING DEPARTMENT

	Wednesday, March 30 1983	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) for week
Liabilities	£	£
Capital	14,553,000	—
Public Deposits	61,169,002	— 300,096,747
Bankers Deposits	702,442,521	+ 55,909,439
Reserve and other Accounts	2,135,637,261	— 47,639,312
	2,903,791,783	— 291,825,620
Assets		
Government Securities	425,704,678	+ 43,720,000
Advances & other Accounts	1,471,010,136	+ 42,352,951
Premises Equipment & other Secs.	1,003,324,788	— 361,602,358
Notes	3,611,396	— 16,296,088
Coin	140,787	+ 19,665
	2,903,791,783	— 291,825,620

ISSUE DEPARTMENT

	£	£
Liabilities		
Notes Issued	11,425,000,000	+ 325,000,000
In Circulation	11,421,388,604	+ 341,296,088
In Banking Department	3,611,396	— 16,296,088
Assets		
Government Debt	11,015,100	—
Other Government Securities	3,921,681,843	+ 979,125,880
Other Securities	7,492,303,057	— 654,125,880
	11,425,000,000	+ 325,000,000

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Bids and deals

Building materials concern Hepworth Ceramic has launched an offer for rival group Steetley. The share-exchange terms of 10 Hepworth for every 7 Steetley value the latter at around £116m. The approach has been described as "unwelcome and totally inadequate" by Steetley's departing chairman Lord Boardman, a view endorsed by chairman-designate Mr David Donne.

Pleasurama made an agreed bid for Trident Television. The merger will create a casino chain with five London and 17 provincial gambling clubs. Pleasurama is offering five of its own shares plus £22.72 cash for every 43 Trident Ordinary, and five shares plus £20.31 for every 43 Trident A shares. The offer values Trident at around £56m, but speculation is increasing in the stock market that the bid will be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The convoluted battle for control of high-street store chain UDS took yet another turn on Wednesday when Hanson Trust offered a cash alternative of 133½p per share to its existing shares-and-cash offer. The rival bd of 130p per share cash from Bassishaw consortium had previously gained the recommendation of the UDS board which will be holding further meetings with both camps.

Leisure Industries, the snooker table and toy manufacturer, is in discussions with an as-yet unnamed company which might lead to a bid. Leisure's share price jumped sharply in the Unlisted Securities Markets to value the group at a near-£6m.

MCD, wholesale floor-covering distributor, is to obtain a full Stock Exchange quotation via the reverse takeover of Trafford Carpets. Trafford has agreed to acquire the entire share capital of MCD for 12.5m of its shares. Dealings in the combined concern, to be called MCD Group are expected to begin in early May.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.					
Aberthaw Cement	704	640	420	20.24	Blue Circle
Alpine Hldgs.	148	134	97	17.03	Kean and Scott
Andrsn Strthclyde	200*	196	179	94.83	Charter Cons
Anglo Met	90●	90	80	5.31	Atlantic Met
Austin (E.)	60*	61	50	2.54	Caparo Inds
Austin (James)	77*§	78	64	3.46	Trumans Steel
Bell and Sime	160*§	153	136	0.45	Fleming (J.)
Bilton (P.)	245§§	275	262	91.7	Trust Sec
Cope Allman	60*§	60	58	23.7	Dowable
Crest Int	12¼	10½	13	4.42	Kwik-Fit
Davenport Brwy	294‡ §§	300	246	21.61	Wolv Dudley
Dollands	37½*§	93	70	0.15	A. P. Ward and N. Fetterman
Edin and Gen Ins	28	22	13	8.10	Mills & Allen Intl
Heal	£38*	£36	£16	4.80	Habitat Mthrcare
Highgate Optical	23*	62	35	0.47	Exent
Jeavons Eng	76	72	62	4.26	Newman-Tonks
Rowan & Boden¶¶	60*	59	40	2.42	Firth (G.M.)
Saxon Oil	108	107	66	14.61	Clyde Pet

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.					
Second City Prop	77¼	74½	60	18.25	Beazer (C. H.)
Steetley	197	218	153	120.4	Hepw'th Ceramic
Sumrie	65*§	68	70	0.95	Afcor Invs
Surmah Vlly Tea	153‡‡	148	123	1.22	Rightwise
Sykes (Henry)	37*	36	25	3.16	Alco Standard
Trident TV "A"	113½§§	101½	104½	1.74	Pleasurama
UDS	130*	134	89	247.9	Bassishaw Invs
UDS	137§§	134	110	261.3	Hanson Trust

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital not already held. ** Based on March 31 1983. †† At suspension. ‡‡ Estimated. §§ Shares and cash. ¶¶ Unconditional. ● Loan stock alternative.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
Allied Residential	Dec	2,120L	(115)	—	(1.5)	—	(—)
Alpine Holdings	Jan	2,040	(1,120)	9.9	(5.4)	2.28	(5.25)
American Trust	Jan	3,810	(3,390)	2.5	(2.4)	2.35	(2.25)
Automid Security	Nov	3,240	(2,350)	14.6	(11.4)	1.75	(1.45)
Associated Book	Dec	5,620	(4,070)	24.9	(14.8)	6.5	(4.17)
Babcock Intl	Dec	20,490	(14,070)	11.1	(6.1)	7.0	(7.0)
Booker McConnell	Dec	18,000	(17,300)	10.0	(10.2)	3.75	(3.5)
Bowater Corpn	Dec	72,500	(106,700)	15.9	(28.9)	7.75	(11.5)
Bridon	Dec	5,100	(8,200)	5.7	(4.8)	3.0	(3.5)
Bridgewater Ests	Dec	1,260	(701)	24.8	(23.1)	19.0	(18.0)
British Aerospace	Dec	85,000	(71,000)	38.5	(32.1)	8.45	(7.8)
Britoil	Dec	257,000†	(—)¶	9.1‡	(—)	3.75	(—)
Bunzl	Dec	12,690	(11,590)	26.2	(23.4)	9.0	(8.0)
Business Comptrs	Dec	510	(427)	6.1	(8.8)	1.0	(1.0)
Campari Intl	Nov	700‖	(606)§	6.3‖	(7.4)§	4.1‖	(3.1)§
Camra	Jan	143	(89)	23.9	(22.1)	2.5	(2.5)
Cape Industries	Dec	3,420	(2,190)	9.8	(7.6)	5.8	(5.6)
Cartwright (R.)	Dec	891	(883)	9.6	(8.1)	4.63	(4.0)
Charterhouse Grp	Dec	22,860	(22,590)	9.2	(7.1)	5.18	(4.93)
Cliffords Dairies	Dec	2,780	(3,300)	19.7	(20.1)	5.4	(5.0)
Delta Group	Dec	14,500	(12,700)	3.4	(0.9)	3.4	(3.64)
Dickie (James)	Oct	99	(29)	4.3	(3.8)	3.0	(3.0)
Dufay Bitumastic	Dec	709	(549)	4.8	(—)	2.6	(2.0)
Early's of Witney	Jan	126	(223)	1.8	(3.0)	1.32	(1.8)
Estates & General	Dec	1,030	(914)	4.3	(4.1)	1.9	(1.75)
Eucalyptus Mills	Dec	39	(3,420)	3.6	(49.4)	—	(6.0)
Exco Intl	Dec	14,700	(10,650)	15.0	(12.8)	5.6	(—)
Exeter Building	Dec	983	(938)	28.4	(26.3)	7.0	(4.88)
Firmin and Sons	Dec	312	(430)	5.9	(8.1)	4.0	(4.0)
Freemans	Jan	6,380	(13,080)	6.9	(12.1)	4.15	(4.15)
Glynwed Intl	Dec	23,750	(24,780)	14.6	(18.5)	7.35	(7.35)
Good Relations	Dec	500	(263)	7.3	(5.3)	3.5	(—)
GRE	Dec	106,200	(89,100)	37.7	(39.5)	19.5	(17.5)
Harris Queensway	Dec	16,300	(10,500)	18.9	(10.0)	5.67	(4.33)
Home Cnties Nws	Jan	238	(45)	4.4	(0.8)	5.0	(5.0)
Horst (Charles)	Dec	452	(393)L	19.3	(—)	3.58	(2.98)
IMI	Dec	21,950	(23,810)	4.7	(7.9)	3.5	(4.5)
Jamesons Chocs	Dec	700	(616)	14.4	(12.7)	5.0	(4.6)
Kleinwort Benson	Dec	20,030d	(31,630)d	37.0	(40.0)	11.0	(10.0)
Legal and General	Dec	35,100e	(29,400)e	23.3	(19.6)	15.5	(13.0)
Lex Service	Jan	20,000	(15,800)	30.7	(24.2)	8.1	(7.0)
Low and Bonar	Nov	3,530	(5,100)	2.0	(13.6)	5.0	(7.0)
Macallan Glenlvt	Dec	503	(657)b	22.4	(38.5)b	7.15	(9.2)b
Macfarlane Group	Dec	2,150	(1,760)	9.6	(7.8)	3.52	(3.2)
Markheath Secs	Dec	1,830	(1,340)	18.4	(14.8)	7.3	(—)
Mellins	Dec	536L	(234)L	—	(—)	—	(—)
Micro Business	Dec	821	(250)	13.4	(5.2)	1.0	(—)
Molins	Dec	8,300	(7,900)	22.7	(14.6)	7.9	(7.9)
Molynx Holdings	Dec	16	(65)	0.8	(3.8)	—	(—)
Municipal Props	Dec	142a	(131)a	29.4	(27.0)	9.07	(8.25)
Myson Group	Dec	1,310	(7,120)L	2.1	(—)	—	(—)
Nichols (J.N.)	Dec	2,670	(2,570)	26.2	(25.5)	11.5	(10.0)
Noble and Lund	Dec	69	(35)L	1.1	(—)	0.35	(—)
Pengkalen	Sept	50L	(109)L	—	(—)	1.0	(1.0)
Planet Group	Dec	1,020	(692)	4.0	(2.7)	2.2	(1.97)
Reckitt & Colman	Jan	75,010	(66,350)	33.8	(31.1)	10.75	(9.8)
Relyon Group	Dec	1,660	(1,900)	8.6	(9.1)	4.42	(4.38)
Rohan Group	Dec	3,410c	(4,030)c	94.5	(46.5)	12.75	(11.55)
Rolls-Royce	Dec	91,000L	(18,000)	—	(—)	—	(—)
Rotork	Dec	4,140	(2,840)	11.9	(6.8)	3.5	(2.5)
Southampton IoW	Dec	1,610	(1,050)	23.0	(15.1)	9.0	(7.5)
Spirax Sarco	Dec	8,500	(7,350)	12.3	(11.8)	5.0	(4.7)
Spong Holdings	Dec	102L	(73)L	—	(—)	—	(—)
Superdrug Stores	Feb	5,310	(4,410)	8.5	(7.6)	—	(—)
Telfos Holdings	Dec	311	(—)¶	6.1	(—)¶	0.98	(—)
Tilley Intl	Sept	2	(33)	—	(3.0)	—	(—)
Trust Securities	Nov	1,000	(1,220)	14.3	(17.5)	1.97	(1.97)
Vosper	Dec	1,740	(1,870)	30.8	(27.6)	5.0	(4.0)
Watts Blake	Dec	3,170	(3,660)	10.5	(12.6)	3.75	(3.57)
Weir Group	Dec	7,680	(8,300)	7.0	(10.7)	2.5	(1.85)
WW Group	Dec	683	(815)	17.7	(21.4)	6.93	(6.8)
Yorks Chemicals	Dec	244	(1,660)L	0.5	(—)	1.0	(0.5)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
AB Electronic	Dec	806	(303)	3.0	(2.5)
Amal Estates	Sept	624L	(411)L	—	(—)
Assocd Brit Inds	Dec	206	(483)	2.2	(2.2)
Ben Bailey	Dec	94	(13)	0.4	(0.25)
C Aberdeen Land	Dec	51	(189)	4.25	(3.78)
Findhorn Finance	Jan	112	(125)	7.0	(6.5)
LWT (Holdings)	Jan	2,810	(3,390)	4.49	(4.49)
Manson Finance	Dec	319	(760)	0.5	(1.5)
Newman Tonks	Jan	1,030	(955)	1.65	(1.65)
Park Place Invs	Dec	530	(440)	2.0	(1.75)
Peel Holdings	Sept	114	(48)	2.0	(1.0)
Pifco Holdings	Oct	541	(625)	1.76	(1.76)
Prestwich Parker	Dec	8	(22)L	—	(—)
Rivoli Cinemas	Oct	82	(69)	—	(—)
Sanderson Murray	Dec	24L	(29)	—	(—)
Second City Prop	Oct	837	(648)	0.8	(0.62)
Stanelco	Dec	11	(109)L	—	(—)
Stothert and Pitt	Dec	186L	(529)L	—	(—)
Walker & Homer	Jan	342	(24)	—	(—)
Westmstr & Cnty	Oct	246	(215)	2.25	(2.0)

(Figures in parentheses are for the corresponding period.)

* Dividends are shown net except where otherwise stated. † For five months. ‡ Calculated on five months' results. § For previous 12 months. ¶ No comparable figure. ‖ For 18 months. a Attributable profits. b For previous 17 months. c In I£. d Profits after tax and transfer to inner reserves. e Profits after tax and minorities.

Scrip Issues

Automated Security Holdings: One for one.

Bridgewater Estates: One for one.

Dufay Bitumastic: One for five.

Good Relations Group: One for two.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Benson's Crisps is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market shortly after Easter through a placing of 720,000 ordinary shares.

Markheath Securities proposes to convert £0.75m of 54.6 per cent cumulative convertible preferred shares of 25p into an equal number of ordinary shares and then make a one for two scrip issue. This will be followed by a placing of 1.65m new ordinary shares at 121p per share.

Tomatin Distillers proposes to raise £3m through an issue of 3m 7 per cent cumulative convertible preference shares of £1 at par.

Trafford Carpets is placing 2m new ordinary shares at 32p each.

Rights Issues

Harris Queensway is raising £25.231m by way of a rights issue on the basis of one for six at 260p per share.

Irish Distillers is making a one for four rights issue at 90p to raise £10.339m.

Leisuretime International is raising £2.438m via a one for three rights issue at 110p per share.

Standard Chartered Bank is raising £101.042m by way of a one for five rights issue at 390p per share.

Wankie Colliery Company Limited

(Incorporated in Zimbabwe)

DIVIDEND NO. 116

The directors today declared a final dividend No. 116 in respect of the year ended 28th February, 1983.

Two cents per share are payable to ordinary shareholders (excluding holders of "A" Ordinary shares) registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 15th April, 1983. Dividend warrants will be posted on or about 12th May, 1983. The transfer registers in Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom and South Africa will be closed from 16th to 23rd April, 1983 inclusive.

In addition, and in accordance with the terms under which the shares were issued, a dividend of 1¼ times the dividend of 2 cents payable to ordinary shareholders, is payable to the Government of Zimbabwe, the holders of all the "A" Ordinary (unlisted) shares. The "A" Ordinary shares rank for dividend for the first time in respect of this dividend now declared.

Zimbabwe non-resident shareholders' tax and resident individual shareholders' tax both at the rate of 20% will be deducted from the dividend where applicable. The dividend is declared in the currency of Zimbabwe. Payments from the United Kingdom and South Africa will be made in the equivalents of the Zimbabwean value at the rates of exchange ruling at the close of business on 18th April, 1983.

The Chairman's review of the affairs of the Company together with the report and accounts for the year ended 28th February, 1983 will be posted to members on 4th May, 1983.

Audited results for the year ended 28th February 1983 and the comparative figures for the financial period of six months ended 28th February, 1982 are as follows:

	Financial year ended 28.2.83	Financial period (six months) ended 28.2.82
	Tonnes	Tonnes
SALES		
Coal	2 120 285	1 053 858
Coke	199 022	96 261
	$000	$000
TRADING PROFIT	841	1 335
Net interest and dividends receivable	263	367
	1 104	1 702
Add: Exceptional item	907	—
Profit on realisation of Investments	—	32
DISTRIBUTABLE PROFIT	2 011	1 734
Add: Unappropriated profit brought forward	358	284
	2 369	2 018
APPROPRIATIONS		
Capital Reserve	503	500
General Reserve	—	400
Dividends	1 643	760
	2 146	1 660
Unappropriated profit carried forward	223	358
	Cents	Cents
Earnings per share including exceptional item*	6.90	6.84
Dividends per share*	5.64	3.00

*The calculation of earnings and dividends per share is based on the weighted average of 29 127 726 shares in issue during the year (1982—25 333 488 shares).

Whilst prices have remained unchanged throughout the year under review, costs have risen. In addition coal sales were only 89% and coke sales only 92% of the levels expected, reflecting a downturn in demand in both local and export markets.

The exceptional item relates to coal stocks brought to account for the first time. Because of the requirements of the new power station, significant stocks of coal are now held and it is no longer appropriate not to value coal stocks which was the previous practice. Further details will be given in the Report and Accounts.

Efforts to maintain coke oven production have been successful but the condition of the battery remains of concern. Customer demand has been met in full.

Progress on the opencast expansion project is satisfactory and remains on schedule.

By order of the board
D. A. Patel
For Secretaries

Registered Office:
70 Samora Machel
Avenue Central
P.O. Box 1108
Harare C4, Zimbabwe

Office of the United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries:
Charter Consolidated P.L.C.
P.O. Box 102, Charter House
Park Street, Ashford, Kent
TN24 8EQ

London Office:
40 Holborn Viaduct

APPOINTMENTS

Finance director at Lucas

LUCAS INDUSTRIES has appointed Mr R. Brown finance director and treasurer in succession to Mr J. W. Shield. Mr Brown, who is already a director of Lucas Industries, assumes his new responsibilities on May 1. He was appointed a director of Joseph Lucas, the operating board of the group, and a member of the Lucas Executive in 1977. In August 1979 he was appointed director and general manager of Lucas Electrical. Mr Brown was appointed to the board of Lucas Industries on January 1.

*

Mr Colin Harrison, group marketing director, has become director of sales and marketing of LLOYDS BOWMAKER FINANCE following the resignation of Mr David Fielden.

*

Mr M. J. Verey retired as chairman of the trustees of THE CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND on March 31. Mr G. J. A. Jamieson, a director of Robert Fleming Holdings, has been elected chairman in his place.

*

Mr Bill Paton has become a divisional director of PERA (PRODUCTION ENGINEERING RESEARCH ASSOCIATION), following the retirement of Mr Don Morgan.

*

Mr John Giannotti has joined the CHARLES FULTON (UK) GROUP as a director of Charles Fulton (Financial Services). He was a vice-president in London of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

*

Mr Lance J. Easton has been appointed marketing director of GEC TRAFFIC AUTOMATION. He was managing director of Automatic Revenue Controls in the UK and chairman of Automatic Revenue Controls Inc. in the U.S.

*

Mr Ron Rose has been appointed to the board of KELCO. He was sales director.

*

JOHN WOOD GROUP has appointed Mr David H. Kinnon an executive director and group finance controller. Mr Kinnon was group chief accountant for The Weir Group.

*

QUILTER GOODISON AND CO, members of the Stock Exchange, will appoint Mr David Damant as a partner on April 11. Mr Nicholas Somerville has joined as a senior corporate finance executive.

*

Mr Colin Butterfield has joined the board of HICKSON & WELCH. Dr David G. Anderson and Mr Neil Harris have become directors of Hickson's Timber Products.

*

The TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ASSOCIATION has elected a new chairman following the retirement of Mr Maurice Ash. She is to be Mrs Mary Riley, her retirement from that post at end of June.

*

PLASTICISERS, a meber of the Redicut Group, has made the following changes: Mr Paul Prager, a main board director of the Redicut Group, has been appointed chairman. Mr Martin Firth, financial director, is now managing director. Mr Geoff Thornton, production director, has become director/general manager. Mr Colin Firth, technical manager, is promoted to technical director.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option		Calls April	Calls July	Calls Oct.	Puts April	Puts July	Puts Oct.
BP (USP 330)	280	62	—	—	2	—	—
"	300	32	46	52	4	10	13
"	330	9	29	30	11	19	24
"	360	1½	2	—	32	38	—
CGF (USP 467)	420	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	460	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	500	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	550	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	600	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CTD (USP 95)	70	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	80	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	90	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CUA (USP [illegible])	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GEC (USP 200)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GM (USP [illegible])	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ICI (USP 396)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LS (USP 314)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
M & S (USP 194)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SHL (USP 466)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Option		Calls May	Calls Aug.	Calls Nov.	Puts May	Puts Aug.	Puts Nov.
BBL (USP 451)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IMP (USP 110)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LMO (USP [illegible])	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LNR (USP [illegible])	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
P & O (USP 140)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RCL (USP 451)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RTZ (USP 504)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VRF (USP $102)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Option		Calls June	Calls Sept.	Calls Dec.	Puts June	Puts Sept.	Puts Dec.
BHM (USP [illegible])	350	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
"	390	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GKN (USP [illegible])	160	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	10½%	■ Guinness Mahon	10½%
Al Baraka International	10½%	■ Hambros Bank	10½%
Allied Irish Bank	10½%	Heritable & Gen. Trust	10½%
Amro Bank	10½%	■ Hill Samuel	§10½%
Henry Ansbacher	10½%	C. Hoare & Co.	†10½%
Arbuthnot Latham	10½%	Hongkong & Shanghai	10½%
Armco Trust Ltd.	10½%	Kingsnorth Trust Ltd.	12 %
Associates Cap. Corp.	11 %	Knowsley & Co. Ltd.	11 %
Banco de Bilbao	10½%	Lloyds Bank	10½%
Bank Hapoalim BM	10½%	Mallinhall Limited	10½%
BCCI	10½%	Edward Manson & Co.	12 %
Bank of Ireland	10½%	Midland Bank	10½%
Bank Leumi (UK) plc	10½%	■ Morgan Grenfell	10½%
Bank of Cyprus	10½%	National Westminster	10½%
Bank Street Sec. Ltd.	10½%	Norwich Gen. Tst	10½%
Banque Belge Ltd.	10½%	P. S. Refson & Co.	10½%
Banque du Rhone	11½%	Royal Trust Co. Canada	10½%
Barclays Bank	10½%	Roxburghe Guarantee	11 %
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	11½%	Slavenburg's Bank	10½%
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	11½%	Standard Chartered	‖10½%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	10½%	Trade Dev. Bank	10½%
■ Brown Shipley	11 %	Trustee Savings Bank	10½%
Canada Perm't Trust	11 %	TCB	10½%
Castle Court Trust Ltd.	11 %	United Bank of Kuwait	10½%
Cayzer Ltd.	10½%	Volkskas Intl. Ltd.	10½%
Cedar Holdings	11 %	Westpac Banking Corp.	10½%
■ Charterhouse Japhet	10½%	Whiteaway Laidlaw	11 %
Choulartons	11½%	Williams & Glyn's	10½%
Citibank Savings	¶10 %	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	10½%
Clydesdale Bank	10½%	Yorkshire Bank	10½%
C. E. Coates	11 %		
Comm. Bk. of N. East	10½%		
Consolidated Credits	10½%		
Co-operative Bank	*10½%		
The Cyprus Popular Bk	10½%		
Duncan Lawrie	10½%		
E. T. Trust	11½%		
Exeter Trust Ltd.	11½%		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	13 %		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	13 %		
Robert Fraser	11½%		
Grindlays Bank	‡10½%		

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee.
* 7-day deposits 7.5%; 1-month 7.75%. Short-term £8,000/12-months 10.1%.
† 7-day deposits on sums of: under £10,000 7½%, £10,000 up to £50,000 8¼%, £50,000 and over 9%.
‡ Call deposits £1,000 and over 7½%.
‖ 21-day deposits over £1,000 8½%.
§ Demand deposits 7½%.
¶ Mortgage base rate.

Granville & Co. Limited

(formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited)

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

Over-the-Counter Market

1982-83 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Gross div.(p)	Yield %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully taxed
142	120	Ass. Brit. Ind. Ord.	134	—	6.4	4.8	7.8	10.2
158	117	Ass. Brit. Ind. CULS	150	—	10.0	6.7	—	—
74	57	Airsprung Group	63	—	8.1	2.7	18.0	18.0
46	32	Armitage & Rhodes	32	—	4.3	13.4	3.8	6.3
314	197	Bardon Hill	312	− 2	11.4	3.7	13.1	16.5
137	100	CCL 11pc Conv. Pref.	137	—	15.7	11.5	—	—
270	210	Cindico Group	210	—	17.6	8.4	—	—
86	52	Deborah Services	52	—	6.0	11.5	3.4	9.3
92	77	Frank Horsell	92	—	—	—	7.7	8.2
90½	75½	Frank Horsell Pr Ord 87	90½	—	8.7	9.9	10.1	10.9
83	61	Frederick Parker	62	—	7.1	11.5	3.9	8.2
55	34	George Blair	34	—	—	—	5.2	12.3
100	74	Ind. Precision Castings	78	—	7.3	9.4	10.0	12.9
158	100	Isis Conv. Pref.	158	− 1	15.7	10.1	—	—
143	94	Jackson Group	143	—	7.5	5.2	4.4	9.1
202	111	James Burrough	202	—	9.6	4.8	14.7	18.4
260	148	Robert Jenkins	148	—	20.0	13.5	1.6	23.5
83	64	Scruttons "A"	70	—	5.7	8.1	9.1	10.2
167	112	Torday & Carlisle	112	—	11.4	10.2	5.0	8.6
29	21	Unilock Holdings	25½	—	0.46	1.8	—	—
86	64	Walter Alexander	64	− 1	6.4	10.0	4.8	8.6
270	214	W. S. Yeates	263xd	− 7	17.1	6.5	4.1	8.4

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146.

MONTHLY AVERAGES OF STOCK INDICES

—	March	February	January	December
Financial Times				
Government securities	80.52	78.66	78.63	79.67
Fixed Interest	82.26	80.41	80.61	81.51
Industrial Ordinary	699.6	646.5	613.6	592.8
Gold Mines	270.1	591.7	328.7	315.9
Total Bargains	24,298	24,749	22,985	19,497
F.T.—Actuaries				
Industrial Group	419.11	412.98	399.95	393.12
500 Share	445.95	440.43	427.51	419.65
Financial Group	310.41	999.24	278.86	966.45
All-Share (750)	412.48	404.79	321.38	279.40

	High	Low
Industrial Ordinary	673.6 (15th)	641.6 (1st)
All-Share	421.15 (15th)	402.51 (1st)

LADBROKE INDEX based on FT Index 655-660 (+5)

Wall St mixed: Dow off 13

A STRONG EARLY trend gave place to a mixed tendency on Wall Street on Thursday when the broad market did much better than the Dow stocks with declines ahead of advances by a margin of only some 65 issues.

After opening 7.74 up at 1,151.03, the Dow Jones Industrial Average finished 13.26 off at 1,130.03, for a net loss of 10.06 on the holiday shortened week. The NYSE All Common Index, at $88.03, shed 13 cents on the day but was still up 22 cents on the week. Volume expanded 24.77m shares to 100.57m, while declines led advances by 795-to-740.

Oils rallied on the news that British National Oil Corp. proposed a 50 cents a barrel cut to $30 in the price of North Sea Brent crude oil.

Several Oil analysts issued buy recommendations on the stocks Thursday morning and the group took off, carrying the rest of the market with it for a short time.

The professional traders took advantage of the emotional hinge in Oils and started taking profits.

One analyst said Oils artificially pumped up the Stock Market, which was really beginning to look a little weak around the edges.

Investors were also nervous about the high level of the Federal Funds rate, which often acts as a pacesetter for other market rates.

The Fed Funds rate, charged on Overnight Loans between banks, rose as high as 10¾ per cent Thursday from Wednesday's close of 9¼ per cent.

Analysts said the high level of the key interest rate was primarily due to technical factors that come into play at the first quarter, but it still managed to unsettle the market.

Oils were the centre of attention all day, and eight of the 10 most active issues were in the Energy sector.

Volume leader Atlantic Richfield rose $2⅜ to $42⅜. Union Oil California $2⅜ to $33⅜, Schlumberger $2¼ to $42⅜, Amerada Hess $1⅝ to $24, Standard Oil California $2¼ to $38⅜, Phillips Petroleum $1⅝ to $33¼, Shell Oil $2⅜ to $38⅜ and Kerr-McGee $2⅜ to $32⅜.

Technology stocks, the traditional market leaders over the past few months, did not fare as well. Bellweather IBM set the pace for the group, falling $2⅛ to $101⅛ after setting a record closing high Wednesday.

Texas Instruments were down $4¼ to $164⅞, Digital Equipment $3¼ to $124⅜ and Control Data $2 to $47⅛.

THE AMERICAN SE All Common Index surpassed Wednesday's record closing high, rising 2.07 to 359.06.

Energy stocks were among the best performers, with active Mitchell Energy up 1¼ to $18⅞ and Asamera $1⅛ to $22⅜.

Canada

Sharply higher, despite a slight retreat in the afternoon session.

The Toronto Composite Index finished 14.1 up at 2,156.0, after 2,166.5.

The Metals and Minerals Index rose 8.8 to 2,046.7, Golds 73.1 to 3,989.2, Oil and Gas 102.3 to 2,770.7 and Banks 4.25 to 476.76.

Germany

Shares ended the short, pre-Easter week on a firmer note on Thursday and selected shares continued their strong rally.

Most dealers had expected a quiet day ahead of the long weekend, but the renewed overnight rise on Wall Street emboldened investors to put more money into German shares.

With Foreign and Domestic investors actively seeking Blue Chips like Siemens and Daimler, the Commerzbank Index rose 14 points to 909, its highest level since December 3 1969.

Degussa advanced DM 16.5 to 279 on its improved business in the year ending September 30. Metallgesellschaft added DM 5.80 at 239.80, despite news of a major loss in 1981-82 and weak results so far in the current year.

Paris

Mixed with a higher bias in active trading ahead of the four-day Easter break.

Wall Street's gain Wednesday encouraged some buyers. Thursday's ¼ point rise in Call Money to 12⅜ per cent had little impact on sentiment as the rise was seen as largely technical.

Dealers cited the pessimistic tone of the National Statistics Institute's latest Industrial Survey, which predicted weak industrial activity in the near term, as a discouraging factor.

Vallourec rose FFrs 4.9 to 94.9 after reporting higher 1982 parent company net profit and higher consolidated turnover.

Mixed sectors included Banks, Foods, Engineerings, Metals and Oils. Elsewhere, Financials and Constructions were higher, while Electricals were lower.

In the Foreign sector, Americans were lower but Germans, Dutch, Oils and Gold Mines were higher.

Switzerland

Share prices continued higher in fairly active trading but volume fell somewhat ahead of the long Easter weekend.

There were no new factors, but Wednesday's higher New York close and renewed optimism about interest rates continued to stimulate sentiment.

Banks led the advance.

Among Foreign shares, U.S. Oils met good demand.

The Swiss Bond Market closed quietly steady, with reaction to the result of the New Swiss Federal Bond mostly favourable.

In the Foreign sector, Dollar shares closed very steady, Oils were in particular demand, while Dutch Internationals and Golds also rose. German shares were firm.

Tokyo

The market fell slightly on profit-taking on Friday, when dealers and investors became cautious about the high prices after the records set in the past four days.

The Market Average lost 9.70 to 8,469.00, while the New Index shed 2.56 to 815.13 in fairly active trading of 550m shares.

International Populars led the fall, the first in six trading days, following the overnight decline on Wall Street.

Kyocera lost Y100 to 4,770 and Yashica fell Y58 to 357 after announcing they plan to merge.

Hong Kong

Firmer as early losses were wiped out by fairly active Institutional and small investor buying on Thursday.

The Hang Seng Index moved up 13.47 to 996.01.

Prices fell initially following worse than expected Corporate results but buyers returned to the market, prompted by the fact that most of the companies reporting maintained their dividends.

The Stock Market will close for Easter and reopen Wednesday, April 6.

Conic Investment rose 10 cents to $HK 2.10—it reached a deal with Cheung Kong to issue 27m new shares as partial payment for acquisition of land from the latter.

Singapore

Prices finished higher Thursday, taking the Straits Times Index to its highest so far this year—up 16.64 to 867.65.

Banks were stronger, Hotels, Properties, Commodities and the Second Trading section were also better, while Shipyards were mixed.

Australia

Resource stocks and some "key" Industrials closed on a firm note ahead of the five-day Easter break.

Base Metals continued to appreciate and brokers said a stock shortage helped push prices higher.

Golds were barely traded.

Oils again traded thinly, with Bridge up 10 cents to A$2.50. A parcel of 1m Weeks Petroleum traded at A$1.90—10 cents above current market prices.

The market took a cautious stance towards Bond Corp's bid for Retailer Grace Bros., which did not trade. Bond was steady at A$1.02 while Myer shed 7 cents to A$1.45.

CANADA

Stock	Mar. 31	Mar. 30
AMCA Intl	25⅛	25
Abitibi	20⅛	20⅛
Agnico Eagle	15⅞	15¾
Alberta Energy	14	13⅝
Alcan Alumin	37⅝	37½
Algoma Steel	39	32
Asbestos	13	13
Bk Montreal	29⅝	22⅞
Bk Nova Scotia	42	42
Basic Resources	1.80	1.55
Bell Canada	25⅝	25⅛
Bombardier	14⅞	14⅞
Bow Valley	17½	15½
BP Canada Res.	20¼	19¾
Brascan A	28⅞	99
Brinco	3.10	3.05
B.C. Forest	10¾	10¾
CIL Inc	25⅛	25¼
CadillacFairview	7⅞	7⅞
Can Cement	15⅞	15¾
CanNW Energy	24½	23⅛
Can Packers	40¾	40¾
Can Trusco	41¾	41⅝
Can Imp Bank	36¼	55¾
Can Pacific	43¾	44
Can. Pac. Ents	22	22⅜
Can Tire	60	60
Carling O'Kfe	13¾	14

DENMARK

Mar. 30	Price %	+ or —
Aarhus Olie	356.4	−12
Andelsbanken	287.4	—
Baltica Skand.	461	−3
CopHandelsbank	272.4	−1.8
D. Sukkerfab	493	−4
Danske Bank	288	−1.4
East Asiatic	126.4	−2.8
Forende Brygg	870	—
Forende Damp	193	−6
GNT Hldg	312.5	−24.5
I.S.S.B.	427.9	−11.3
Jyske Bank	482	—
Novo Ind	2145	−60
Privatbanken	275	−1
Provinsbanken	223	−5
Smidth (F.L.)	214	+5
Sophus Barend	764	−1
Superfos	172	−4

FRANCE

Mar. 31	Price Frs.	+ or —
Emprunt 4½% 1973	1,880	−20
Emprunt 7% 1973	7,950	−40
CNE 3%	3,195	+4
Air Liquide	479	−7
BIC	466	−9
Bouygues	590	+12

NETHERLANDS

NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS

Thursday	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Atlantic Rich	2,021,800	42⅜	+2⅜
Union Oil	1,741,600	33⅜	+2⅜
Exxon	1,717,800	30⅞	+ ½
Schlumberger	1,614,300	42⅜	+2⅛
Amerada Hess	1,541,500	24	+1⅝
Mobil	1,541,100	28⅜	+1⅜
Lone Star	1,532,100	32½	—
Chrysler	1,391,300	17	− ⅛
Stan. Oil Calif.	1,307,900	38⅜	+2⅛
Phillips Pet.	1,307,400	33¼	+1⅝

TORONTO Composite 2156.0 2141.9 2122.4 2117.5 2170.6 (7/3/83) 1352.2 (7/7)

CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling firm

Sterling recorded its biggest one-day rise since June 1982 in currency markets on Thursday, spurred on by the recent BNOC announcement on the price of North Sea oil. Its index rose to 79.5 from 78.5 on Wednesday, having stood at 79.3 at noon and 78.8 in the morning. Against the dollar it finished at $1.4830-1.4840, a rise of 1.9 cents and its best level for two weeks. Against the D-mark it rose to DM 3.6025 from DM 3.5575 and SwFr 3.0925 compared with SwFr 3.0525. It was also much firmer against the Japanese yen at Y354½ from Y351½ and FFr 10.7850 from FFr 10.6450. Trading was a little thin towards the end of the day with the approaching long Easter weekend and with most operators running short sterling positions there seems to be room for further upward movement after the extended weekend break.

The dollar remained quietly firm, underpinned by firm U.S. domestic rates as a result of heavy demand for liquidity. Against the D-mark it finished at DM 2.4265 against DM 2.4275 and Y238.85 compared with Y239.75. It was unchanged against the Swiss and French francs at SwFr 2.0830 and FFr 7.27 respectively but rose against the Dutch guilder to 2.7310 from Fl 2.7280. Its Bank of England trade-weighted index rose to 122.7 from 122.5 on Wednesday.

Within the European Monetary System the D-mark was fixed at its lowest permitted level against the French franc, Irish punt and Danish krone and the Bank of France and the Bundesbank were actively intervening to maintain agreed parities.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU March 31	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc ...	44.3662	44.5545	+0.42	+0.21	±1.5430
Danish Krone ...	8.04412	7.96124	−1.03	−1.24	±1.6418
German D-Mark	2.21515	2.24250	+1.23	+1.02	±1.0567
French Franc ...	6.78271	6.72428	−1.01	−1.22	±1.4018
Dutch Guilder ...	2.49587	2.52657	+1.23	+1.02	±1.4941
Irish Punt	0.71705	0.710063	−0.97	−1.18	±1.6696
Italian Lira	1386.78	1334.88	−3.74	−3.74	±4.1463

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

March 31	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.4680-1.4850	1.4830-1.4840	0.15-0.10c pm	1.01	0.35-0.30 pm	0.88
Canada	1.8080-1.8310	1.8285-1.8295	0.25-0.15c pm	1.31	0.52-0.42 pm	1.03
Nethlnd.	4.00½-4.06½	4.05-4.06	2½-2c pm	6.66	6½-5½ pm	0.04
Belgium	70.70-71.70	71.45-71.55	5-15c dis	−1.68	25-35 dis	−1.68
Denmark	12.65-12.78	12.72½-12.75½	3½-5½ore dis	−4.06	8½-10½ dis	−3.02
Ireland	1.1300-1.1430	1.1400-1.1420	0.45-0.65p dis	−5.89	0.96-1.24dis	−3.86

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

March 31	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
UK†	1.4660-1.4850	1.4830-1.4840	0.15-0.10c pm	1.01	0.35-0.30 pm	0.82
Ireland†	1.2970-1.3030	1.2975-1.2990	0.8070.65c pm	6.70	1.50-1.30 pm	4.31
Canada	1.2310-1.2340	1.2330-1.2340	0.04c pm-0.01 dis	0.14	0.07-0.02 pm	0.14
Nethlnd.	2.7300-2.7350	2.7300-2.7320	1.32-1.22c pm	5.58	0.67-3.57 pm	0.30
Belgium	48.15-48.27	48.17-48.19	9-13c dis	−2.74	25-30 dis	−2.28
Denmark	8.5900-8.6400	8.6100-8.6200	3½-4½ore dis	−5.22	7-8 dis	−3.48

† UK and Ireland are quoted in U.S. currency. Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar and not to the individual currency. Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 48.95-48.05.

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 72.65-72.75. Six-month forward dollar 0.41-0.36c pm; 12-month 0.55-0.40c pm.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Mar. 31	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.	1.484	3.603	354.0	10.785	3.093	4.056	2143.	1.829	71.5
U.S. Dollar	0.674	1.	2.428	238.9	7.270	2.085	2.733	1446.	1.233	48.20
Canadian Dollar	0.547	0.811	1.970	193.8	5.897	1.691	2.217	1172.	1.	39.08
Belgian Franc 100	1.398	2.075	5.038	495.5	15.08	4.325	5.671	2997.	2.558	100.

MONEY MARKETS

Further shortage of credit

UK clearing bank base lending rate 10½ per cent (since March 15 and 16)

Day-to-day credit was in short supply in the London money market on Thursday. The Bank of England forecast a shortage of around £600m, with factors affecting the market including bills maturing in official hands and a net take up of Treasury bills—£364m and the unwinding of previous sale and repurchase agreements—£601m. There was also a rise in the note circulation of £270m. On the other hand Exchequer transactions added £690m to the system.

The forecast was revised to a shortage of £700m and the Bank gave assistance of £663m. This comprised purchases of £128m of eligible bank bills in band 1 (up to 14 days) at 10⅛ per cent and £141m in band 2 (15-33 days) at 10½ per cent. In band 3 (34-36 days) it bought £1m of Treasury bills at 10⅜ per cent and £178m of eligible bank bills at 10⅜ per cent. In band 4 (64-91 days) it bought £7m of local authority bills and £207m of eligible bank bills (84-84 days) at 10⅜ per cent. The forecast was again revised back to a shortage of £600m and the Bank gave no further assistance in the afternoon.

In the interbank market weekend money opened at 10⅜-10⅝ per cent and eased during the day to finish around 1 per cent.

LONDON MONEY RATES

Mar. 31 1983	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount Market Deposits
Overnight	—	1-10⅞	—	—	—	6-10⅞	3-10⅝
9 days notice	—	—	10¾-10⅞	—	—	—	—
7 days or	—	—	—	—	—	10⅞-11⅛	—
7 days notice	—	10⅝-10⅞	10¾-10⅞	—	—	11⅛	10⅛
One month	10⁹⁄₁₆-10¹¹⁄₁₆	10¾-10⅝	10⅝	11⅛-11¼	10¾	11⅛	10⅛
Two months	10⁷⁄₁₆-10⁹⁄₁₆	10¾-10⅝	10¾	11⅛-11⅛	10⅝	11⅛	10¼
Three months	10¾-10⅝	10⅝-10⅞	10¾	11⅛-10¾	10⅝	—	10⅛
Six months	10⅞-10⅞	10⅝-10½	10⅞	10⅝-10¼	10¾	—	—
Nine months	10⅞-10⅞	10⅞-10½	10⅞	11-10⅝	10¾	—	—
One year	10⅜-10¼	10⅞-10½	10⅞	10¾-10½	10¾	—	—
Two years	—	—	10⅞	—	—	—	—

ECGD Fixed Rate Export Finance Scheme IV Average Rate for interest period February 2 to March 1 1983 (inclusive) 11.391 per cent.

Local authorities and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days fixed. Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 11⅛ per cent; four years 11¼ per cent; five years 11½ per cent. Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rate for four months bank bills 10⅝ per cent; four months trade bills 10⅝ per cent.

Approximate selling rate for one month Treasury bills 10⅜ per cent; two months 10⅜ per cent and three months 10⅜ per cent. Approximate selling rate for one month bank bills 10½ per cent; two months 10⅝ per cent and three months 10¼ per cent; trade bills 10⅝ per cent; two months 10⅝ per cent and three months 10⅝ per cent.

Finance Houses Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 11½ per cent from April 1 1983. London and Scottish Clearing Bank Rates for lending 10½ per cent. London Deposit Rates for sums at seven days' notice 7½ per cent.

Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 10.2175 per cent. Certificates of Tax Deposit (Series 6). Deposits of £100,000 and over held under one month 11 per cent; one-three months 11 per cent; three-six months 10¾ per cent; six-12 month 10¾ per cent. Under £100,000 10½ per cent from March 29. Deposits held under Series 3-5 10¾ per cent. The rates for all deposits withdrawn for cash 8 per cent.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing rates)

Mar. 31	Short term	7 days notice	Month
Sterling	10⅛-10¾	10½-10¾	10¹¹⁄₁₆-10¹³⁄₁₆
U.S. Dollar	9⅛-9⅜	9¼-9½	9⁵⁄₁₆-9⁷⁄₁₆
Can. Dollar	7½-8½	7¾-8¾	9-9¼
D. Guilder	3½-3⅝	3½-3⅝	3¾-3⅞
S. Franc	3⅞-4	3⅝-3⅞	3¹³⁄₁₆-3¹⁵⁄₁₆
Deutschm'rk	4⅝-4¾	4⅞-5	4⅞-5
Fr'nch Franc	12⅝-12¾	12⅝-12¾	12⅝-12¾
Italian Lira	15-17	16½-18½	16½-18½
Belg. Franc Conv.	11-15	12-13	12-13
Fin.	11½-18	11¾-12	11⅞-18⅛
Yen	8¼-5⅜	8⅜-5½	5⅝-8½
D. Krone	16½-18	15⅝-16⅞	14½-16
Asia $ (Sing.)	9⅛-9¼	9⅜-9½	9⁷⁄₁₆-9⁹⁄₁₆

OTHER CURRENCIES

Mar. 31	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso	99,705-99,905	67,320-67,370	Austria	24.95-26.25
Australia Dollar	1.7075-1.7095	1.1065-1.1070	Belgium	71.70-79.45
Brazil Cruzeiro	616.25-619.26	415.46-417.54	Denmark	19.50-12.70
Finland Markka	8.1065-8.1670	5.4710-5.4750	France	10.64-10.78
Greek Drachma	191.781-124.881	83.70-84.20	Germany	3.54½-3.60
Hong Kong Dollar	9.921¼-9.941¼	6.7200-6.7300	Italy	2085-2120
Iran Rial	124.10*	85.10*		
Kuwait Dinar (KD)	0.4335-0.4340	0.29245-0.2928		
Luxembourg Fr.	71.45-71.50	48.17-48.19		
Malaysia Dollar	3.5850-3.4000	2.2980-2.2940		
New Zealand Dlr.	9.2625-2.2770	1.5350-1.5570		
Saudi Arab. Riyal	5.1075-5.1170	3.4600-3.4516		
Singapore Dollar	3.0800-3.0900	2.0830-2.0850		
Sth. African Rand	1.0250-1.6206	1.0955-1.0965	United States	1.46½-1.48½
U.A.E. Dirham	5.4365-4460	3.6720-3.6750	Yugoslavia	119-134

*Selling rates.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING

(11.00 a.m. MARCH 31)

3 month U.S. dollars		6 months U.S. dollars	
bid 9 5/8	offer 9 3/4	bid 9 15/16	offer 9 15/16

The fixing rates are the arithmetic means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for $10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest prices per tonne unless stated	Ch'nge on week	Year ago	1982/83 High	1982/83 Low
Gas Oil Fut. April	$234.88	+9.20	$201	$323	$290
Jute UJA BWC grade	‡	—	$263	£270	$223
Rubber kilo	80p	+6	57.5p	80.5p	45p
Sago Pearl	£250v	—	£22 5	£250	£220
Sisal No. SL	$646x	—	$540/650	$655	$590/610
Sugar (Raw)	£113vz	+2	£147	£177	£92
Tapioca No. 1	£290w	—	£220	£290	£215
Tea (quality) kilo	148p	−1	118p	155p	117p
(low med.) kilo	185p	−2	‡	‡	‡
Wooltops. 64s Warp	409p kilo	—	395p kilo	409p kilo	069p kilo

‡ Unquoted. (g) Madagascar. (x) April. (u) July. (y) Sept. (z) May. (v) March-April. (w) April-May. § Ghana cocoa.

LONDON OIL SPOT PRICES

	Latest	Change + or −
CRUDE OIL—FOB ($ per barrel)		
Arabian Light	28.00-28.10	+0.15
Iranian Light	25.80-26.80	+0.18
Arabian Heavy	26.00	+0.10
North Sea (Forties)	28.20-28.25	+0.05
North Sea (Brent)	28.25	−0.10
African (Bonny L'ht)	28.30-28.50	+0.05
PRODUCTS—North West Europe CIF ($ per tonne)		
Premium gasoline	284-290	—
Gas oil	233-238	−0.5
Heavy fuel oil	158-160	—

GAS OIL FUTURES

Prices opened slightly lower but steadied to the highs in line with the physical market. Pre-weekend lethargy affected the market in the afternoon as prices drifted lower, reports Premier Man.

Month	Yest'day's close	+ or −	Business Done
	$ U.S. per tonne		
March	—	—	233.50-30.50
April	234.25	−1.00	235.00-33.00
May	233.75	−0.50	233.00-33.00
June	231.75	−1.50	233.75-31.50
July	231.00	−2.25	233.50-30.75
Aug	233.00	−1.75	235.00-35.25
Sept	235.50	−1.25	237.25-35.75
Oct	238.00	−1.50	238.00
Nov	240.75	+0.25	240.75-40.50

Turnover: 2,259 (3,009) lots of 100 tonnes.

GOLD MARKETS

Gold fell $3½ an ounce from Wednesday's close in the London bullion market on Thursday to finish at $414-415. The metal opened at $414-415 and traded between a high of $415-416 and a low of $412½-413½ in very quiet pre-Easter trading.

LONDON FUTURES

Month	Yest'rday's close	+ or −	Business Done
	$ per troy ounce		
April	414.40-15.7	−0.800	418.50-15.5
May	417.30-17.9	−2.450	417.30
June	421.30-22.3	−0.550	421.50-20.9
July	423.50-25.0	−1.300	—
August	427.00-28.8	−1.200	427.00
Sept	428.20-33.0	−2.050	—
Oct	431.10-38.0	−2.300	—

Turnover: 149 (799) lots of 100 tonnes.

	Mar. 31		Mar. 30	
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)				
Close	$414-415	(£279-279¾)	$417½-418½	(£285-285¾)
Opening	$414-415	(£282-282½)	$418½-417½	(£285¼-286)
Morning fixing	$414.25	(£280.572)	$417.25	(£285.944)
Afternoon fixing	$414.75	(£279.632)	$418	(£285.105)

Gold Coins Mar. 31

Krugrnd	$428-429	(£289-289¼)	King Sov	$102½-104	(£69-70)
½ Krg	$220½-221½	(£148¾-149½)	Victoria Sov	$102½-104	(£69-70)
¼ Krg	$112¼-113¼	(£75¾-76½)	French 20s	$87½-89½	(£59¼-60¾)
1/10 Krug	$45¾-46¾	(£31-31½)	50 pesos Mex	$509-512	(£343¾-345)
Mapleleaf	$425½-426	(£288-289)	100 Cor. Aust.	$403-407	(£272¼-274¾)
New Sov	[illegible]	(£66¼-66¾)	$20 Eagles	$550-570	(£371¾-384¾)
Old Sov	[illegible]	(£59¼-60¼)			

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Sterling rally halts rise in base metals

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

THE RECOVERY in the value of sterling brought a general downturn in London metal and commodity markets on Thursday, wiping out most of the gains earlier in the week.

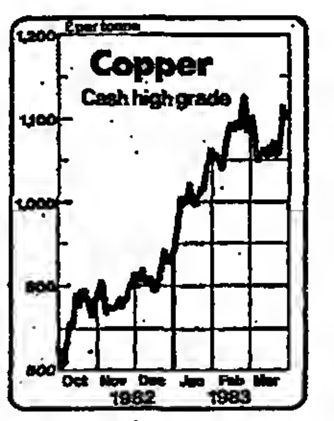
On the London Metal Exchange the cash price of high-grade copper lost £12.75 on Thursday to close at £1,103.75 a tonne, still £8.75 up on the week. There was some disappointment at the latest industrial trends in the U.S., and yet another increase in LME warehouse stocks, but the market was heartened by U.S. producers raising their domestic copper prices by 2 cents to 80 cents a lb.

Aluminium and nickel prices also eased after reaching new peaks on Tuesday. Cash nickel ended the week £30 lower at £3,352.5 a tonne after trading at £3,450 at one stage. Cash aluminium rose to £928.5 before falling back to £909 on Thursday.

Tin prices reached record sterling levels on Thursday on the London Metal Exchange in spite of the recovery in the pound. Cash tin closed £81.5 up on the week at £9,264 a tonne. However the Straits tin price in Malaysia was virtually unchanged at M$30.50 a kilo, after reaching M$30.61 at one stage, and remains in the lower price range of the International Tin Agreement.

The buffer stock of the International Tin Council is continuing to control prices in London and Penang by support buying and is expected to push the Malaysian market up further following agreement by the Tin Council to extend the present export quotas for a further three months until June.

Representatives of tin exporting countries this week agreed to set up a Tin Producers' Association to represent their interests and step up promotion of the uses of tin. However under a compromise between Malaysia and Indonesia, the two biggest producers it was agreed that the new Association should not seek to duplicate the work of the International Tin Agreement, between both producing and consuming countries.



The upturn in sterling halted a rise in natural rubber values with the RSS No 1 spot position on the London physical market falling 0.5p a kilo yesterday from Wednesday's 37-month high to end the week 5.5p up at 80p a kilo.

The earlier rise—attributed to the pound's weakness and Chinese and Soviet buying demand—had taken this year's advance to 30p a kilo.

Modest rises on the cocoa and coffee markets were wiped out yesterday. A £16 rise in May delivery cocoa was turned into a £2.00 fall on the week at £1,898 a tonne while May coffee, which had been up £45, ended only £2.50 higher on balance at £—?— a tonne.

Both markets had been encouraged earlier by an official report from the Ivory Coast estimating plantation damage in the recent bush fires at about 250,000 hectares. The cocoa crop is expected to be well down from last season's 456,000 tonnes record as a result.

The London daily sugar price fell back £2 yesterday to end the week £2 up at £113 a tonne.

At Wednesday's EEC export tender in Brussels business got back to normal after the exceptionally low allotment of the previous week which had been attributed to confusion following the realignment of the European Monetary System (EMS). This week export licences were granted on 50,250 tonnes of white and raw sugar, compared with an 11,000 tonnes total a week earlier.

BASE METALS

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in morning-only trading cash Higher Grade traded at £1,103.50, 03, 03.50, three months £1,139.00, 38.50, 38, 35, 37, 36, 35.50, 35, 35.50. Cathodes: Three months £1,113.00, 14. Kerb: Higher Grade: Three months £1,137, 36.50, 36. Turnover: 15,100 tonnes.

ALUMINIUM

Aluminm	a.m. Official	+ or −	p.m. Unofficial	+ or −
	£	£	£	£
Spot	908.5-9.5	−4.75	—	−5.5
3 months	933.5-7	−7.5	—	−7.75

Aluminium—Morning: Three months £938, 37.50, 38, 36, 37, 36, 38.50.

COFFEE

COFFEE	Yesterday's Close	+ or −	Business Done
March	—	—	1920-884
May	1897-99	−42.5	1940-95
July	1781-80	−5.5	1734-18
Sept	1671-73	−5.5	1684-70
Nov	1083-84	+0.5	1635-22
January	1588-89	+5.0	1592.84

INDICES

FINANCIAL TIMES

Mar. 31	Mar. 30	M'th ago	Y'ar ago
277.89	276.27	261.54	242.49

(Base: July 1 1952=100)

REUTERS

AMERICAN MARKETS

NEW YORK, March 31.

PRECIOUS METALS were featureless on evening-up before the long Easter holiday; the apparent stability in open pricing was a contributing factor plus arbitrage buying which helped the markets finish with little change. Copper prices were locked in a narrow range most of the day with commission house profit-taking on a bearish increase in reported stocks being offset by arbitrage. Heating oil prices firmed up on indications that BNOC would not significantly lower its crude oil price but prices finished lower on late profit-taking. After a week opening sugar prices firmed up on commission house buying forcing short-covering and technical buying. Coffee markets closed moderately lower in featureless trading with limited dealer interest offset by commission house liquidation. The soyabean and soyabean oil markets finished very strong followed by firm closes in wheat, and mostly unchanged in maize, reported Heinold Commodities.

SPOT PRICES—Chicago loose lard 10.50 (same) cents per pound. Handy and Harman silver bullion 1,083.0 (1,065.0) cents per troy ounce. New York tin 632.0-35.0 (623.0-28.0) cents per pound.

NEW YORK

COCOA 10 tonnes, $/tonnes

	Close	High	Low	Prev
May	1704	1730	1702	1717
July	1743	1765	1741	1755
Sept	1775	1791	1774	1782
Dec	1814	1826	1808	1823
March	1836	1853	1840	1855
May	1857	—	—	1877
July	1878	—	—	1898

COFFEE "C" 37,000 lb, cents/lb

SUGAR WORLD "11" 112,000 lb, cents/lb

	Close	High	Low	Prev
May	7.09	7.12	6.85	7.08
July	7.44	7.45	7.16	7.38
Sept	7.61	7.82	7.54	7.67
Oct	8.94	8.04	7.78	7.96
March	9.00	9.00	2.76	8.86
May	9.23	9.25	9.05	9.08
July	9.41	9.53	2.30	8.31

CHICAGO

WOOL FUTURES

SOYABEAN MEAL

STOCK EXCHANGE DEALINGS

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from last Wednesday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission.

Details relate to those securities not included in the FT Share Information Services.

Unless otherwise indicated, denominations are 25p and prices are in pence. The prices are those at which business was done in the 24 hours up to 3.30 pm on Wednesday and settled through the Stock Exchange Talisman system; they are not in order of execution but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest dealing prices.

For those securities in which no business was recorded in Wednesday's Official List, the latest recorded business in the four previous days is given with the relevant date.

‡Bargains at special prices. ⊕Bargains done the previous day. ΔBargains done with non-member or executed in overseas markets.

UK PUBLIC BOARDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVT.

FOREIGN STOCKS (coupons payable London)

CORPORATIONS—FOREIGN

BANKS, DISCOUNT

BREWERIES

Scottish Newcastle 7¾pcPf. 72½ 7½ (29/3) 5¼pc1stDb 1979-84 £94¼ (29/3). 0¼pc 1stDb 1978-83 £90. 0¾pc1stDb 1985-90 £78 (28/5). 7¼pc1stDb 1089-94 £72 (28/3)

Seagram Dists. 12½pcDb 2012 (£25 pd.) £25¼ ½ ¾ (29/3)

South African 7pcPf. (R1) 39 (28/3)

Vau Brews. 6½pcDb 1978-90 £77 (25/5). 7¼pcDb. 1987-92 £70¼ (29/3)

Watney Mann Truman Hldgs. 5¾pcDb £30 1. 4¼pcDb £33 (29/3). 4¼pcDb 1975-83 £97 (29/3) 4½pcDb 1988-93 £61½ (29/3). 6pcDb 1989-94 £64¾. 6½pcDb 1987-80 £77¼ ¾. 7pcDb 1988-1993 £73¼. 7¼pcDb 1007-02 £73¼ (29/3). 10½pcDb 1990-05 £96 (28/3). 8pcLn 1090-95 £74½.

COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—D

Channel Tunnel Inv (5p) 85

Charringtons Indps Hldgs 0pcLn 1908-95 £64 (25/3)

Chloride Gp 7¼pcDb 1085-90 £75 (20/3)

Chubb & Son 6½pcPf (£1) 50 (29/3). 8pcLn 1992-95 £71¼ (20/3)

Clarke (T.) (10p) 40

Clutsom-Penn International 7½pc2ndDb 1906-91 £75

Clyde Blowers 155 (20/3)

Conta Patons 4pcPf (£1) 31 (25/3). 0¼pc Ln 2002-07 £50¼ 9. 7½pcLn 1990-95 £69¼

Cocksedge (Hldgs) 28 (25/3)

Cohen (A.) N-V A (20p) 230

Collins (W.) 0pcDb 1903-90 £54 (20/3)

E—F

Combined English Stores Gp 9½pcLn 1906-91 £62 7

Computer & Systems Engg 9.1pcPf (£1) £9¼ (28/3)

Cook & Watts 9¼pcLn 1987-92 £72½ (29/3)

Cookson Gp 7pcPf (50p) 24 (25/3). 7pcPf (£1) 53½ (25/3)

Cope Allman International 7½pcLn 1971-1990 £75 (28/3)

G—H

I—J—K

Imperial Foods 0¼pcDb 1985-90 £77¼

Imperial Group 0¼pcLn 1902-88 £88¼ ½. 0.9pcLn 2004-09 £59¼. 7.5pcLn 2004-09 £64¼. 10.5pcLn 1990-95 £07¼ 0 ¼ ½ ¾. 0pcLn 1985-90 £83 ½ 4 ½ 5 7½ ¼

Inco 15¾pcLn 2006 5 0ep £105

Inital 0pcLn 1988-93 £71¼ (28/3)

Internat Stand Electr 5½pcLn 1979-09 £73½ (25/3)

Isle of Man Enterprises (20p) 40

Jackson (J. & H.B.) 10pcPf (£1) 107½ 8

Jamesons Chocolates (10p) 100 (25/5)

Johnson Firth Brown 11.03pcPf (£1) 37 40. 11pcLn 1993-98 £48

Johnson, Matthey 5pcPf (£1) 40. 7¼pcDb 1990-95 £72½ (29/3)

Jones, Stroud (Hldgs) 10pcPf (£1) 103 7 (25/3)

Kayser Bondor 8½pcDb 1982-87 £78

Kenning Motor Gp 5½pcPf (£1) 42 (28/3). 7pcPf (£1) 54½

L—M

N—O—P

Q—R—S

Reed Publishing Hldgs 3½pcDb 1083-88 £66½ (25/3). 8½pcDb 1883-08 £77. 4½pcLn 2004-09 £35 6½ 7 8½ (29/3). 7¾pcLn 1987-92 £74½. 9pcLn 1899-2004 £73 4 5 (29/3)

Relyon Gp 7¼pcLn 1988-91 £75 (20/3)

Renold 6pcPf (£1) 34 (29/3). 8pcDb 1981-86 £71½ (28/3). 7¾pcLn 1992-97 £31½

Roxmore 13pcPf (£1) 110 (29/3)

Rockware Gp 0pcLn 1995-99 £61 (25/3)

Ropner 11½pcPf (£1) 120½ 9½ (28/3)

Rotork 9½pcPf (£1) 99

Rowntree Mackintosh 8pc1stPf (£1) 55½ (28/3). 7pc2ndPf (£1) 83½ (28/3)

Ruberoid 10½pcLn 1990-95 £82 (28/3)

Rugby Portland Cement 6pcLn 1995-98 £57½ 8¼. 7¼pcLn 1993-98 £67¼ (28/3)

Sainsbury (J.) 7¼pc1stDb 1987-92 £74¾ (28/3). 8pcLn £62½

Salts (Saltaire) 4½pc1stPf (£1) £21½ (29/3)

Samuel (H.) 180. 6pcPf (£1) 47 (28/3)

Sangers 7½pcPf (£1) 37 (28/3)

Savoy Hotel B (5p) £40 (29/3)

Scapa Gp 8pcLn 1998-93 £70½ 1¼ (25/3)

T—U—V

W—Y—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Edinburgh American Assets Tst 5pcDb (1955 or after) £43 (29/3). 8pcLn 1973-1996 £1 43½ (28/3)

Edinburgh Inv Tst 3.15pcPfd £43 (29/3)

English and Intnl Tst 5pcPf (£1) 42

English and Scottish Investors 8 94 (20/3)

External Inv Tst (£1) 349 (28/3)

First Scottish American Tst 3pcPf £48 (29/3). 5pcLn 1992-97 £75 (29/3)

Fleming American Inv Tst 6pcDb 1976-1986 £85¼ 7½ (20/3)

Fleming Mercantile Inv Tst 4¼pcDb 1983

UNLISTED SECURITIES MARKET

RULE 163 (3)

Dealings for approved companies engaged soleyy in mineral exploration.

RULE 163 (4) (a)

Bargains marked in securities which are quoted or listed on an Overseas Stock Exchange.

MINES—MISCELLANEOUS

MINES—SOUTH AFRICAN

OIL

PROPERTY

PLANTATIONS

RAILWAYS

SHIPPING

UTILITIES

WATER WORKS

RULE 163 (2)

Applications granted for specific bargains in securities not listed on any Stock Exchange.

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Series		June Vol.	June Last	Sept. Vol.	Sept. Last	Dec. Vol.	Dec. Last	Stock
O/FL C	F.205	4	8.60	—	—	—	—	F.273.40
O/FL C	F.870	4	0.80	1	8	—	—	"
O/FL C	F.275	—	—	9	4.20	—	—	"
O/FL P	F.260	42	1.50	—	—	—	—	"
O/FL P	F.270	1	8 A	—	—	—	—	"
		May		Aug.		Nov.		
GOLD C	$400	—	—	80	40	—	—	$415
GOLD C	$428	70	17	0	35	—	—	"
GOLD C	$450	83	7	8	25 B	3	36	"
GOLD C	$470	40	0.50	30	17.00	—	—	"
GOLD C	$500	95	5.50	07	10	—	—	"
GOLD C	$560	—	—	—	—	95	11.50	"
GOLD P	$375	08	4.60	—	—	—	—	"
GOLD P	$400	29	9	5	19 B	—	—	"
GOLD P	$420	8	91	—	—	—	—	"
GOLD P	$450	1	57	15	43 B	—	—	"
GOLD P	$600	8	90	—	—	—	—	"
12¾ NL 81 87-81								
C	F.192.50	9	10.50	—	—	—	—	F.135.50
C	F.150	3	3.10 B	1	3.60	—	—	"
C	F.156	682	0.80	—	—	370	1.60	"
C	F.140	—	—	—	—	5	0.70	"
11¼ NL 82 88-22								
P	F.115	—	—	—	—	0	9.20	F.115.20
10 NL 82-11 88-89								
C	F.107.50	5	5.70 B	—	—	—	—	F.111.20
C	F.110	4	1.50	—	—	—	—	"
7¾ NL 89 89-93								
C	F.100	—	—	3	1.80	—	—	F.100.40
C	F.102.50	60	0.30	—	—	—	—	"
7½ NL 83 87-90								
C	F.100	100	0.60	65	1.30	—	—	F.100
P	F.100	—	—	2	2	—	—	"

Series		April Vol.	April Last	July Vol.	July Last	Oct. Vol.	Oct. Last	Stock
AKZO C	F.40	—	—	—	—	20	19 B	F.59.50
AKZO C	F.45	45	14	22	14 B	18	14.50	"
AKZO C	F.50	78	9.20	140	10.00	97	11	"
AKZO C	F.06	838	3 B	95	7.00	—	—	"
AKZO C	F.60	686	9.20	815	5	143	6	"
AKZO P	F.60	70	0.20	24	1.60	—	—	"
AKZO P	F.55	05	0.70	—	—	—	—	"
AKZO P	F.60	480	1.50	—	—	—	—	"
AMRO C	F.50	41	10.50	32	10.50	—	—	F.61
AMRO C	F.60	69	8.40	87	7.70	18	9.50	"
AMRO C	F.60	—	—	59	4.70	89	0.20	"
AMRO P	F.55	—	—	89	1.90	—	—	"
GIST C	F.150	980	11.50	66	10.00	—	—	F.158.60
GIST C	F.160	—	—	60	10.80	—	—	"
GIST P	F.150	837	1.80	85	5.50	—	—	"
HEIN C	F.110	18	25.00	—	—	—	—	F.158
HEIN C	F.180	60	13	—	—	—	—	"
HEIN C	F.130	198	0.80 B	134	7.50	—	—	"
HEIN P	F.110	—	—	18	1.90	—	—	"
HEIN P	F.130	—	—	90	0	—	—	"
HOOG C	F.20	40	4.30	—	—	—	—	F.24.40
HOOG C	F.25	—	—	80	8.60	—	—	"
HOOG P	F.90	—	—	90	0.70	—	—	"
KLM C	F.160	37	6	—	—	—	—	F.159.60
KLM C	F.170	51	1.70 B	—	—	—	—	"
KLM P	F.150	79	0.80	—	—	—	—	"
NEDL C	F.110	—	—	81	3.80	—	—	F.106.80
NEDL P	F.90	—	—	105	2.50	—	—	"
PHIL C	F.50	69	14 B	57	14.10	5	14.20	F.44.30
PHIL C	F.52.50	55	11.80	29	11.50	20	11.80	"
PHIL C	F.35	108	9	151	9.20 B	197	10	"
PHIL C	F.40	660	4.50	1015	5.50	352	7.80	"
PHIL C	F.45	—	—	990	5.60	794	4.70	"
PHIL P	F.50	—	—	—	—	18	0.80	"
PHIL P	F.40	—	—	965	1.20	70	1.60	"
PHIL P	F.45	—	—	55	9.80	15	6.50	"
RO C	F.90	338	19.90 B	84	19.80 B	8	90.50	F.109.80
RO C	F.100	1939	10.60	424	11.50	138	15	"
RO C	F.110	9111	2.70	834	0.60	187	7.80	"
RD P	F.100	74	0.50	815	9.50	21	0	"
RO P	F.110	295	2.50	107	5.00	108	9	"
UNIL C	F.200	48	18	59	25 A	0	24	F.919.40
UNIL C	F.290	225	4.50	34	11	95	19	"
UNIL P	F.990	—	—	80	18	—	—	"
		May		Aug.		Nov.		
VEBA C	DM140	60	20	—	—	—	—	DM188.30

TOTAL VOLUME IN CONTRACTS 18,780

A=Asked B=Bid C=Call P=Put

Authorised Units—continued

Insurances—continued

Offshore and Overseas—continued

Yashica to be merged into Kyocera

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

KYOCERA, THE leading Japanese supplier of ceramic components to the electronics industry, is to absorb Yashica, the camera maker, on October 1. The merger is to take place on the basis of one Kyocera share for 13 Yashica shares.

The new company will be called Kyocera and the Yashica name will disappear for corporate purposes, although it will continue to be used as a brand name to market cameras. A steering committee is to be set up shortly with five members from each group, with a view to signing a formal merger contract in the middle of May.

Merger talks began last February when Mr Rhozo Endo, president of Yashica, sought financial assistance from Mr Kazuo Inaba, president of Kyocera, after it became clear that the camera maker was likely to tumble into losses in the business year ended March 31 1983. Yashica had been hit hard by cut-throat competition between Japanese camera makers, and had delayed moves towards diversification into other fields.

Kyocera, whose ceramic integrated circuit packages for the semi-conductor industry account for as much as 50 per cent of its total sales, faces stiff competition from the makers of cheaper plastic packages.

The company (previously known as Kyoto Ceramic) has attempted to diversify into other fields such as electronic components, office automation and audio equipment, though none of these has yet made much contribution to earnings.

Kyocera has not yet established sales networks for its own products, however, and in the meantime has been marketing personal computers under the brand name of NEC, selling plain paper copiers under the brand name of Fuji Xerox and selling compact digital audio players through Laox, a big discount sales store.

Kyocera was therefore interested in absorbing Yashica, which has considerable expertise in assembling precision mechanical and optical parts.

If the merger goes through, the new Kyocera will expand into the office automation and factory automation equipment field, combining Kyocera's electronics technologies and Yashica's expertise in assembling optical and precision parts.

The merger will raise Kyocera's capital to Y4.7bn ($19.6m) from Y4.6bn. In the fiscal year ending March 1984, Kyocera expects its parent company's operating profits before extraordinary items to reach Y42.3bn (up 22 per cent), on expected full-year sales of Y180bn, up 36 per cent.

After the merger, Yashica would add sales of Y10bn-Y12bn to Kyocera's annual turnover, but no contribution from Yashica to profits is expected in the year ending March, 1984.

Kyocera's sound financial standing, with no borrowings and cash in hand of as much as Y4.4bn, makes a sharp contrast with Yashica, whose long and short-term borrowing stands at Y6bn.

Kyocera shareholders' equity ratio stands at 86 per cent, against Yashica shareholders' 7 per cent. Kyocera's financial standing will be diluted by the merger, with its shareholders' equity ratio slipping to around 80 per cent.

Black and Decker sells McCulloch

By William Hall in New York

BLACK AND DECKER, the world's leading manufacturer of power tools, has sold its loss-making McCulloch petrol-driven chain-saw operation to a group of private investors and management.

World-wide demand for McCulloch chain-saws has dropped substantially over the last couple of years and the company, which incurred an after-tax operating loss of $23m in 1982, has been a major drag on Black and Decker's earnings. Black and Decker suffered a net loss of $76.6m last year—its first loss for 50 years—as a result of the chain-saw division's operating losses and the need to make a $94m after-tax provision for the potential costs associated with the sale of McCulloch.

Rizzoli losses keep La Centrale in red

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

LA CENTRALE, the Italian financial holding company which is owned by Nuovo Banco Ambrosiano, incurred a loss of L32bn ($22m) in the six months to December 31 and has reported a sharp increase in its already heavy debt burden. Debt in the half year period rose from L292bn to L326bn.

In the last full financial year, ended June 30, 1982, La Centrale reported a loss of L62.6bn. The company's losses are mainly the result of the disastrous performance of the Rizzoli publishing group, in which it took a 40 per cent stake in 1981, when it was controlled by the late Sig Roberto Calvi.

Apart from the Rizzoli participation, La Centrale owns large stakes in two highly profitable banks, Credito Varesino and Banca Cattolica del Veneto, and almost 57 per cent of the Toro insurance company. Last week it agreed to sell the Toro stake for nearly L300bn to a consortium led by IFI, the investment company of the Agnelli family. The proceeds of this sale are expected to bring La Centrale down to a more manageable level.

Earlier this week, Sig Luigi Guatri, the commissioner responsible for Rizzoli, which is in controlled administration (a form of receivership), said that decisions on the group's future were now needed urgently, before this summer. He said the company had lost L15bn in the first two months of this year and had liquidity of L13bn, which would keep it going for only a few more months.

Formal talks are expected to begin in the next few days with a consortium called Studio 83, formed by the Confindustria employers' association and Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, on the possible purchase of the publishing activities of Rizzoli, including Corriere della Sera, Italy's leading daily newspaper. But the exact mechanism of the sale have yet to be worked out.

The Rizzoli group is understood to have incurred losses of L122bn in 1982, which would absorb its reserves of L98bn and part of its equity capital of L75bn. However, Sig Angelo Rizzoli, the former chairman and holder of about 40 per cent of the equity, said he hoped that a new law allowing revaluation of real assets to take account of inflation would enable the writing down of Rizzoli's capital to be avoided.

Sig Rizzoli and Sig Bruno Tassan Din, Rizzoli's managing director, were provisionally released from prison last weekend. They had been held since mid-February on charges of fraudulent bankruptcy.

MIM signs A$730m loan deal

By Our Financial Staff

MIM HOLDINGS, the big Australian base metals and minerals producer, has signed a A$730m (US$ 632m) loan package with a consortium of banks to finance further development of its Newlands/Collinsville coal project in Queensland, together with a loading terminal at Abbot Point.

The package, put together for MIM by First Boston, is said to be the largest project financing so far arranged for an Australian coal project, and breaks new ground by incorporating six different facilities, all of which carry an 11-year maturity.

The main elements of the package are US$280m of short-term notes (led by Manufacturer Hanover) to be sold on the Eurodollar market, US$155m worth of commercial paper (led by Chemical Bank) to be sold in New York, Eurodollar production loans worth US$77m, fixed and adjustable yen loans worth up to Y25bn, and a A$50m bank bill facility.

Disclosure of the package follows earlier announcements that long-term sales contracts have been reached covering most of the new mine's 6.3m tonnes annual output. Lenders to Australian resources projects have in recent months been insistent that such contracts must be in place before funding can proceed.

Earnings slip at Komatsu

By Our Financial Staff

KOMATSU, THE leading Japanese construction equipment manufacturer, suffered a 1.9 per cent decline in net income to Y32.6bn ($136m) from Y33.2bn in the financial year ended December 31, despite a 15.2 per cent increase in sales to Y810.3bn ($3.38bn).

The overall sales increase, marking the sixth consecutive year in which Komatsu has achieved this, was largely accounted for by a 36 per cent jump in overseas sales. These now make up 58.2 per cent of the group's total. Sales on the Japanese domestic market fell back by 5.1 per cent as a result of cuts in government spending and the downturn in housing construction.

Breaking down its performance in overseas markets, Komatsu says it enjoyed success in every major market except for North and South America.

Dao Heng Bank to seek quote

BY ROBERT COTTRELL IN HONG KONG

DAO HENG BANK of Hong Kong plans to go public. Its controlling shareholder, the Hong Leong group, plans to acquire a shell company into which Dao Heng and its subsidiaries will be injected.

The new, quoted holding company will also acquire Hong Leong's Hong Kong-based financial, insurance and trading interests, now grouped in a private company, Hong Leong Enterprises.

Hong Leong is controlled by Singapore's Kwek family, who also have diverse interests in Singapore and Malaysia. Their majority stake in Dao Heng is held through a company called Hong Leong Overseas (Hong Kong). An undisclosed minority stake is held by investment clients of Lombard, Odier, the Swiss-based bank.

Dao Heng Bank and its subsidiaries had shareholders' funds of HK$391m and total assets of HK$4.8bn (US$714m) at June 30, 1982, when the bank's last balance sheet was published.

Hong Leong bought Dao Heng for £100m (US$148m) from Grindlays Bank of the UK in March 1982. Dao Heng was called Grindlays Dao Heng until the completion of a management transition period in September 1982.

The shell company to be used for the deal is Marsworth, which was formed on the advice of Jardine Fleming, the merchant bank, as part of a merger between Smart Shirts, a Hong Kong textile company, and Kellwood International of the U.S.

As a first step, Hong Leong Overseas (HK) plans to bid for Marsworth at HK$ 24.50 per share. A Marsworth director holding 65.5 per cent of the share capital has irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer.

Meanwhile, Marsworth—to be renamed Hong Leong Company—would acquire the share capital of Dao Heng Bank and its subsidiaries.

The acquisitions would be paid for in new Marsworth shares and cash raised through a rights issue. Hong Leong says it does not intend ultimately to own more than 75 per cent of the enlarged Marsworth.

● Carrian, the troubled Hong Kong investment group, has completed the sale of 20 older vessels from the fleet of its shipping subsidiary, Grand Marine Holdings.

The buyers are named as the Li family, who controlled Grand Marine before Carrian took it over and enlarged it in 1981.

In common with the rest of the Carrian group, Grand Marine's financial condition is precarious. It has been seeking rescheduling of U.S.$450m in debts over 10 years, but has failed to agree terms.

Tosco move to reschedule debt

By Our New York Staff

TOSCO, one of the biggest independent oil refiners in the U.S., is seeking its bankers' agreement to reschedule debts of $675m following a fierce price war on the West Coast which has depressed margins and led to an estimated first quarter after-tax loss of $40m.

Tosco is the latest in a series of U.S. companies to be hit by the recession in the U.S. oil industry. Blocker Energy, the Houston-based drilling contractor, yesterday reported a net loss of $71.7m for the year ended December 31 1982 and said it was seeking help from its bankers to restructure debts.

It said the utilisation rate for its fleet of 51 drilling rigs had dropped from close to 100 per cent in 1981 to 57 per cent in 1982, while contract drilling rates fell by nearly 40 per cent. It expects the situation to continue in the current year.

Fokker slides into deficit

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

FOKKER, the Dutch aircraft maker, suffered a net loss of Fl 10.2m ($3.7m) in 1982 after extraordinary costs of Fl 33m. The result compares with a net profit of Fl 10.8m in 1981, but was in line with the forecast made by the company in November, when it announced plans to cut the workforce because of deteriorating business.

Turnover in 1982, however, rose by 4 per cent, to Fl 1.35bn from Fl 1.3bn, and operating profit was unchanged at Fl 16.8m.

Fokker said higher interest costs and provisions for restructuring put the 1982 result under pressure.

The company is to pass the dividend. In 1981 it paid Fl 2.20 cash, or Fl 0.90 cash plus 5 per cent in shares.

Inco to resume Sudbury work

TORONTO—Inco, the world's largest nickel producer, is to resume operations in Sudbury, Ontario, on Monday after a 10-month shutdown.

About 6,000 workers will return to their jobs and will process nickel concentrate on hand. The remainder of the workforce of 11,000 will be back on the job by April 18. Reuter

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Abbey Unit Tst. Mngrs. (a)
1-3 St Paul's Churchyard EC4P 4DX 01-236 1833

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int.	111.6	118.1	+0.6	10.60
High Inc Equity	45.9	49.4xd	-0.6	7.57
Capital Growth				
American Growth	97.3	104.6	-0.8	1.67
Assets & Ergs. Tr.	50.5	54.3	+0.4	2.76
Commodity & Engy	65.6	70.5xd	+0.7	2.48
General	79.3	85.7	+0.7	3.27
Japan	79.3	85.3	-1.3	0.29
UK Growth	47.7	51.3xd	-0.6	3.80
Acc. Units	65.5	70.4	+0.2	3.80
Worldwide Bond	137.5	147.8	-2.1	3.72
Inv. Tst. Fd.	76.5	82.3	-0.2	2.92
Equitas Prog.	117.4	120.4	+0.8	3.57

Aitken Hume
1, Worship St., EC2 01-628 6626

American Tech Fd.	145.3	156.2	+0.3	0.20
Inc & Grth Fd.	30.9	33.2		4.70
Pacific Fd.	110.9	119.7xd	-1.5	2.20
Secure Income Fd.	94.5	101.5	+0.7	8.20
Special Sits.	156.6	167.6	-0.4	2.30
Aitken Hume Ltd. Deposit Rates.				
Treasury Acct*	—	—	—	11.46
Mnthly Income Acct*	—	—	—	11.90

*Unauthorised—Cash Deposit facilities.

Allen Harvey & Ross Unit Tst. Mngrs.

Britannia Gp. of Unit Trusts Ltd. (a)(c)(g)
Salisbury House, 31, Finsbury Circus, London EC2
01-638 0478/0479 or 01-588 2777
Britannia Viewpoint 01-673 0048

UK Specialist Funds				
Assets	140.5	151.5xd	+0.9	4.01
Recovery	52.2	55.7		3.78
Smaller Cos	79.1	85.3xd	-0.1	2.05
Spec. Mkt. Sits.	71.9	77.5		1.40
UK Blue Chip	48.3	51.2	+0.6	3.30
High Income Funds				
Nat. High Inc.	94.5	101.9xd	+1.4	7.14
Extra Inc.	40.4	43.6	+0.2	9.07
Inc & Growth	101.8	109.8	+1.3	5.97
Gilt	26.8	28.2	+0.4	9.30

Duncan Lawrie Fnd. Mgrs. (g)
1, Hobart Place, London SWIW 0HU. 01-245 9321

Growth	18.2	19.6		3.30
Income	32.0	34.4		9.10
Overseas	62.5	67.2		5.70

Save & Prosper—continued

Overseas Funds (z)				
Europe	133.9	144.1	-1.1	1.07
Japan	166.2	178.9	-2.1	0.55
S.E. Asia	78.8	84.8	+0.5	1.11
U.S.	212.0	228.2xd		3.51
Sector Funds				
Commodity	146.3	157.4xd	-0.4	2.01
Energy	121.1	130.3	+1.1	2.47
Exploration Fund (z)	32.3	34.7	+0.2	0.26
Financial Secs.	135.3	145.6	-0.4	2.76
New Technology (z)	82.5	88.7		0.22
Scotbits	64.0	70.0	-0.7	2.88
Special Situation Fd.	50.6	54.7	+0.3	2.77
Intl. Bond Fd.	77.9	83.9xd	-0.2	1.74

Tyndall Managers Ltd.(a)(b)(c)
18, Canynge Road, Bristol. 0272 732241

Australian Securities	46.5	50.0	+0.1	2.62
(Accum. Units)	45.5	50.0	+0.1	2.62
Capital	197.2	209.2	+0.4	3.55
(Accum. Units)	320.2	339.6	+1.0	3.55
Exempt	157.0	168.8xd	+2.2	8.08
(Accum. Units)	299.6	322.2	+4.0	8.08
Far Eastern	93.2	99.2xd	-0.7	1.04
(Accum. Units)	96.6	102.8	-0.6	1.04
Fin & Prop.	28.2	30.4		4.12
(Accum. Units)	40.5	43.6		4.12
Gilt Capital Trust	100.5	104.4xd	-0.2	8.13
(Accum. Units)	101.5	105.4	+0.8	8.13
Gilt Income	105.9	109.9xd	+1.0	11.28

INSURANCES

MARKET REPORT

Sterling and Wall Street influences encourage markets
Gilts extend recovery and equity leaders also rise

Account Dealing Dates
Options

*First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Mar 21	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 18
Apr 11	Apr 21	Apr 22	May 3
Apr 25	May 5	May 6	May 16

* "New-time" dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

Leading industrials advanced across the board on Thursday, but in a continuing low volume of business. The firmness owed much to Wall Street's buoyant response overnight to another set of encouraging U.S. economic indicators and to hopes that BNOC's small oil price cuts might lessen the dangers of a price free-for-all which have been a depressing influence in London financial markets since the recent Opec agreement. Sterling was a particular beneficiary of the receding fears.

Although foreign exchange dealings remained thin, the pound rallied strongly before settling slightly below the day's best. Sterling's favourable response gave Gilt-edged securities cause to extend Wednesday's good recovery. Longer maturities gained a point more despite the holiday and end-financial year considerations which severely inhibited trade all week.

Partly because of these factors, short-dated Gilts made a less positive showing on Thursday and rarely achieved gains in excess of ¼. After the official close, all Government stocks tended to drift back but the FT Government Securities index still closed 0.32 up for a two-day rally of 0.89 to 80.82.

Equity markets also ended the second leg of the extended trading Account under the session's highest. Many sectors were virtually ignored after an initial mark-up, but specialist flurries of activity occurred in places. Oils stood out with good gains and Bowater continued to recover after Wednesday's dividend shock. Turner and Newall revived well and IMI were also popular, but Lucas Industries were plagued by final dividend doubts following the interim statement.

Measuring the mood of the leaders, the FT Industrial Ordinary share index was nearly six points up at noon but gradually eased to close a net 4.1 up at 655.1; on the week, this measure was 1.8 down.

The introduction of Intervision Video issues to the Unlisted Securities market failed to impress investors. The Ordinary opened at 60p, but reacted to close at the day's lowest of 51p, while the 7 per cent Convertible began at 225p and also settled at the session's worst of 180p.

GRE good

Comment on the preliminary figures helped GRE to firm 10, making a two-day advance of 22 at 432p. Other Composite Insurances advanced in sympathy. Ahead of Wednesday's annual results, Phoenix put on 6 to 318p. General Accident rose 14 to 392p and Eagle Star 7 to 375p. Elsewhere, profit-taking in the wake of the results left Legal and General 6 cheaper at 412p, while Prudential gave up the same amount to 382p. In Lloyds Brokers, Minet, at 132p, lost 4 of Wednesday's speculative gain of 9 which reflected dawn raid hopes.

Trading statements enlivened the proceedings in the Building sector. S. Miller featured in the late dealings, advancing 8 to 24½p in response to good results, but Conder contrasted with a fall of 15 to 35p following the annual loss and passing of the final dividend. Poor figures from Ibstock Johnsen, up 5 at 124p, were annulled by the encouraging tenor of the statement on the outlook, while Breedon Cloud, at 250p, also 5 dearer, reflected the increased dividend and profits. Barratt Developments revived with a rise of 6 to 508p. Other bright spots included Heywood Williams, a similar amount dearer at 73p, and Pochins, 10 to the good at 250p.

ICI traded quietly and closed without alteration at 398p.

Debenhams feature

Leading Stores finished a shade firmer for choice after another subdued business. Debenhams were outstanding, however, and rose 6 to 113p on vague suggestions that Mr Gerald Ronson may turn his attentions towards the company if his current offer for UDS fails. House of Fraser firmed a couple of pence to 156p following the board's rejection of Lonrho's proposals for the demerger of the Harrods flagship; Lonrho eased the turn to 82p.

Among secondary counters, Martin The Newsagent, 200p, and A. Caird, 60p, rose 15 and 7 respectively after favourable comment, while speculative interest was also noted for Andre De Brett, 8 up at 78p and for Executex, 3 dearer at 18p. Profit-taking clipped 10 from Waring and Gillow, 125p, while Mellins, up to 173p earlier, finished 2 cheaper on balance at 167p. Elys (Wimbledon) were marked 27 higher at 215p following the increased annual profits and dividend, but Bambers, after announcing a reduced final dividend and a full-year loss, closed 3 lower at 15p.

A dull market since the recent poor results, BICC featured the Electrical leaders with a recovery of 10 to 233p. Racal put on 6 to 430p and Plessey gained 5 to 540p. Elsewhere, Newman Industries, following the capital reorganisation, opened at 15p and touched 20p before closing at 15p. Renewed speculative support helped Arlen to rise 10 to 288p, while Rediffusion firmed 3 more to 348p awaiting bid terms from BET. Security Tag Systems lost 20 to 575p in a thin market.

An early flurry of activity in the Engineering leaders soon fizzled out, GKN advancing afresh to 182p initially before easing back to close a couple of pence cheaper on the day at 177p but still showing a rise of 11 on the week. TI edged up 4 more to 164p, but Hawker finished without alteration at 380p, after 384p. IMI encountered some useful buying and rose 5 to 63½p, while Babcock, still responding to the preliminary results, advanced 12 further to 150p. Spirax-Sarco improved 6 more to 215p on the increased dividend and profits, while John Brown continued to make progress at 26p, up 2, along with Westland, 4 higher at 131p.

Foods traded quietly and generally without distinction. Among Retailers, J. Sainsbury rallied from early dullness to finish 8 up at 373p, but Kwik Save shed a few pence more to 292p. Elsewhere, Paterson Jenks hardened 2 to 136p after Press comment, but Bernard Matthews, which announced excellent preliminary results last week, met profit-taking and shed 7 to 150p.

Bowater below best

A Press suggestion that the company is now particularly vulnerable to predators after reporting poor preliminary figures attracted speculative support to Bowater which rebounded sharply to 175p before closing a net 7p up at 170p. Fisons jumped 27 to 580p, after 583p, on the approval given by the U.S. authorities for the launch of its anti hay fever drug, "Nasalcrom," on May 1. Glaxo met renewed demand ahead of the interim figures, due on April 11, and closed 10 dearer at 820p. Elsewhere in miscellaneous industrials, Turner and Newall rose 6 to 36p following speculative buying fuelled by talk of a pending press "tip." Cowan de Groot reflected an investment recommendation with a rise of 6 at 35p, while Sharna Ware closed the same amount higher and 19 up on the week at 95p after persistent buying ahead of Tuesday's annual results. The Board's strong rejection of Hepworth Ceramic's bid helped Steetley to follow Wednesday's jump of 55 with a rise of 10 to 218p; H.C. closed 6 dearer at 138p, putting a value on the bid of 197p per Steetley share. London and Liverpool Trust became a lively market and touched 455p before closing 6 up at 430p on the Football League's acceptance of the proposed £8m. Telejector video deal. Unigroup rose 3 to 43p on the profits recovery and Hoover A hardened a penny to 129p in response to the chairman's encouraging AGM statement. Barget rose 10 to 135p following Press comment, while Cape Industries gained the same amount to 118p as did Centreway, to 195p. Dealings in Kelsey Industries were suspended at 210p pending the result of the tender offer. Bath and Portland dipped 10 to 141p following the chairman's statement.

Pleasurama firmed 15 to 570p amid continuing speculation that the offer for Trident TV, a penny cheaper at 101½p, is likely to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Leisure Industries rose 15 for a gain on the week of 38 at 300p awaiting further news of the bid approach.

Lucas shed 6 to 156p, after 154p, following the £5.2m first-half deficit and the cautious remarks over the maintenance of the annual dividend. Among Distributors, Hanger shed 3 to 25p following the annual loss and omitted dividend, but revived speculative demand lifted Caffyns 8 to 138p. Lex Service rose 7 more to 238p.

Hopes of a settlement to the dispute with print union Sogat 82 lifted British Printing and Communication 6 to 108p; the annual results are scheduled for next Tuesday. John Waddington also attracted renewed support and in a thin market, rose 5 for a gain on the week of 16 at 90p.

Properties plotted an irregular course in thin trading. Still drawing strength from the preliminary statements, Estates and General hardened 2 more to 75p and Markheath firmed 3 to 215p. London and Provincial Shop rose 9 to 307p but Chesterfield, at 340p, relinquished 10. The leaders drifted gently lower, MEPC easing 2 to 211p and Land Securities cheapening the turn to 313p.

Oils strong

The view that BNOC's crude price cut will not provoke a price war relieved much of the uncertainty which had previously surrounded the Oil sector and prompted a strong recovery movement in quotations. The rally continued well into the after hours' dealings with prices gaining further ground on the back of a rising Oil market in the U.S. BP, 340p, and Shell, 470p, advanced 24 apiece, while Burmah moved ahead strongly with the aid of further speculative demand to close 14 up at 175p. Britoil, in fully-paid form, rose a similar amount to 184p. Ultramar put on 23 to 568p and Tricentrol closed 8 up at 170p. Carless Capel, a member of the consortium bidding for the Wytch Farm oil field, rose 15 to 175p.

Interest in the Shipping sector centred chiefly on Ocean Transport which advanced 6 to 91p in response to Press mention. Elsewhere, Milford Docks fell 12 to 98p on the decision of the consortium headed by M. I. Davies not to exercise its option to purchase 190,100 shares in the company from Mercontoil.

Exco International held steady at 685p after the recent bout of persistent profit-taking which followed the results. Elsewhere in Financials, R. P. Martin eased 10 to 350p, but Mercantile House ended that amount dearer at 830p. Occasional offerings left Aitken Hume 7 lower at 200p.

Publicity given to a broker's circular prompted a firmer tone among Tobaccos. Bats, annual results due April 7, rallied 25 to 655p. Rothmans dipped to 104p following acquisition news but recovered to close unchanged at 107p.

Among Plantations, McLeod Russell rose 4 to 304p following the disposal of Parimbrook for £6m.

Golds advance

South African mining markets made further significant progress following the South African budget which turned out much better than expected for the Republic's mining industry.

Pre-budget fears of changes in stamp duty and the possibility of easing overseas investment restrictions proved completely unfounded and led to substantial closing of bear positions in the leading gold producers.

The marginals, however, were susceptible to the proposed abolition of state assistance but showed little overall change as many issues had discounted the move.

The top-quality stocks made good progress to close at the day's best levels with Vaal Reefs particularly favoured and finally almost £3 firmer at £68¾. Gains in excess of a point were common to Buffels, £33¾, Western Deep, £34¼ and President Brand, £29¾.

The Gold Mines index advanced 13.6 more to 559.7—a two-day gain of 28.2 and a rise of 21.8 over the shortened week, while bullion closed a net $3.5 cheaper at $414.50 an ounce, marginally higher over the longer period.

Financials ended the week on a quiet note. London issues were quietly easier—RTZ dipped 5 to 505p and Gold Fields 3 to 485p—but South Africans were mixed.

De Beers gave up a penny to 524p but remained some 22 higher over the four-day period reflecting persistent South African buying after the 35 per cent increase in gem diamond prices announced last Monday.

"Johnnies" rose a point to £78 and "Amgold" ¼ to £74¼, the latter following the chairman's statement.

Platinums attracted renewed South African and American support. Gains of 15 were common to Rustenburg and Impala at 480p and 685p respectively while Lydenburg edged up 5 to a 1982/83 high of 400p.

A quiet day in Australians saw Western Mining put on 5 to 243p, CRA edged up 3 to 263p and MIM harden 4 to 248p.

Demand for Traded Options declined and only 1,367 contracts were completed to bring the four-day average to 1,312. Activity was almost entirely centred on oil stocks following BNOC's proposed price cuts. Shell Transport recorded 226 calls with the April 420's outstanding at 38p, up 10. British Petroleum attracted 306 calls with 182 struck in the April 330's which advanced 6 to 9p.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Mar. 31	Mar. 30	Mar. 29	Mar. 28	Mar. 25	Mar. 24	year ago
Government Secs.	80.82	80.50	79.93	79.91	80.63	80.52	69.17
Fixed Interest	82.74	82.55	82.29	82.32	82.75	82.39	00.64
Industrial Ord.	655.1	651.0	652.1	655.5	656.9	654.8	570.1
Gold Mines	559.7	546.1	531.5	538.1	537.9	550.7	255.4
Ord. Div. Yield	4.88	4.91	4.89	4.85	4.86	4.91	5.52
Earnings, Yld.% (full)	10.13	10.35	10.51	10.24	10.25	10.37	11.03
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	11.94	11.87	11.71	11.80	11.78	11.65	11.41
Total bargains	25,286	24,407	24,715	26,127	23,033	22,776	27,345
Equity turnover £m.	—	342.94	187.60	187.10	276.84	222.58	175.7
Equity bargains	—	23,306	22,237	82,053	19,537	19,395	26,169
Shares traded (ml)	—	182.7	160.0	120.3	182.5	142.2	137.9

10 am 656.3. 11 am 656.9. Noon 656.9. 1 pm 656.1.
2 pm 655.7. 3 pm 655.5.
Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 16/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial 1/7/35. Gold Mines 12/10/58. SE Activity 1974.
Nil = 11.17.
Latest Index 01-246 8026.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1982/3 High	1982/3 Low	Since Compilat'n High	Since Compilat'n Low
Govt. Secs.	85.84 (8/11)	51.89 (5/1/82)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	87.02 (12/11)	62.79 (7/1/82)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind. Ord.	673.2 (15/3/83)	518.1 (5/1/82)	673.6 (15/3/83)	48.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	734.7 (15/2/83)	181.2 (22/6)	734.7 (15/2/83)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. ACTIVITY

	Mar. 30	Mar. 29
—Daily		
Gilt Edged Bargains	179.0	172.4
Equities Bargains	151.0	144.1
Value	693.2	379.2
5-day Avrge		
Gilt Edged Bargains	188.9	190.2
Equities Bargains	138.0	161.9
Value	491.2	466.7

LEADERS AND LAGGARDS

Percentage change since December 31, 1982 based on Thursday March 31 1983

Office Equipment	+28.13
Metals and Metal Forming	+26.08
Newspapers, Publishing	+23.43
Motors	+24.04
Shipping and Transport	+23.69
Insurance Brokers	+22.76
Health and Household Products	+19.85
Other Industrial Materials	+17.43
Banks	+17.19
Investment Trusts	+16.38
Textiles	+16.74
Financial Group	+14.89
Oils	+13.79
Other Groups	+12.73
Other Consumer	+12.35
Property	+11.98
Leisure	+11.84
Chemicals	+11.51
Insurance (Composite)	+11.18
Packaging and Paper	+11.16
Mechanical Engineering	+11.06
Overseas Traders	+10.06
Insurance (Life)	+ 8.70
Merchant Banks	+ 8.58
All-Share Index	+ 7.78
Building Materials	+ 7.67
500 Share Index	+ 5.77
Food Manufacturing	+ 5.58
Contracting, Construction	+ 5.13
Mining Finance	+ 4.72
Industrial Group	+ 4.43
Capital Goods	+ 3.49
Consumer Group	+ 2.87
Engineering Contractors	+ 2.10
Tobaccos	+ 1.68
Gold Mines Index	+ 0.58
Discount Houses	− 0.64
Brewers and Distillers	− 3.39
Food Retailing	− 4.25
Electricals	− 5.85
Stores	− 7.16

OPTIONS

Stocks favoured for the call included RHP, Lasmo, ICL, Combined Technologies, Turner and Newall, French Kier, Intervision, Ocean Transport, First National Finance and London and Liverpool. A put was done in Ferranti, while doubles were struck in Combined Technologies, Turner and Newall, First National Finance and London and Liverpool.

RISES AND FALLS

	Thursday Rises	Thursday Falls	Thursday Same	On the week Rises	On the week Falls	On the week Same
British Funds	84	3	11	196	111	85
Corpns. Dom. and Foreign Bonds	21	6	54	62	46	212
Industrials	265	241	827	897	1,182	3,253
Financial and Props.	88	111	321	312	517	1,251
Oils	35	11	64	97	88	255
Plantations	2	3	17	11	14	83
Mines	47	27	79	167	154	297
Others	51	57	56	169	256	220
Totals	593	458	1,429	1,905	2,368	5,636

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS (Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section)	Thur March 31 1983 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 30%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Wed March 30 Index No.	Tues March 29 Index No.	Mon March 28 Index No.	Fri March 25 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	1982/83 High	1982/83 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1 CAPITAL GOODS (206)	444.41	+0.5	8.84	3.84	14.26	442.05	444.72	449.84	450.46	372.46	465.25 (15/3/83)	351.14 (14/1/82)	465.25 (15/3/83)	50.71 (13/12/74)
2 Building Materials (23)	433.20	+0.3	9.62	4.45	12.59	431.70	440.01	443.50	445.75	330.88	462.65 (15/3/83)	299.54 (6/1/82)	462.65 (15/3/83)	44.27 (11/12/74)
3 Contracting, Construction (30)	768.87	−0.1	11.71	4.35	10.27	769.71	780.28	786.54	791.12	607.20	831.09 (15/3/83)	529.58 (6/1/82)	831.09 (15/3/83)	71.48 (2/12/74)
4 Electricals (33)	1602.07	+0.7	7.45	2.17	17.28	1591.22	1603.57	1629.35	1632.38	1294.21	1904.92 (11/10/82)	1205.68 (14/1/82)	1904.92 (11/10/82)	84.71 (25/6/62)
5 Engineering Contractors (10)	440.26	−0.3	15.92	6.79	7.69	441.37	441.08	444.17	443.88	505.96	523.05 (5/2/82)	391.02 (1/2/83)	523.05 (5/2/82)	64.39 (2/1/75)
6 Mechanical Engineering (64)	214.81	+0.7	11.03	5.35	11.23	213.37	214.02	217.54	217.35	196.97	222.65 (15/3/83)	187.11 (6/4/82)	230.26 (24/4/81)	45.43 (6/1/75)
8 Metals and Metal Forming (11)	186.15	+1.4	10.22	6.16	11.94	183.51	181.96	180.85	178.98	163.22	186.15 (31/3/83)	128.49 (5/10/82)	192.29 (4/5/79)	49.65 (6/1/75)
9 Motors (18)	96.02	+0.1	1.25	6.52	—	95.93	96.66	95.93	95.39	96.55	102.40 (3/2/82)	72.33 (4/10/82)	170.59 (15/1/69)	19.91 (6/1/75)
10 Other Industrial Materials (17)	426.05	+0.5	7.59	4.99	17.50	424.07	416.61	419.34	419.20	375.71	433.20 (16/3/83)	337.32 (9/8/82)	433.20 (16/3/83)	277.55 (15/1/81)
21 CONSUMER GROUP (201)	413.58	+0.7	10.15	4.32	11.98	410.63	413.70	416.97	416.89	304.20	425.57 (10/3/83)	265.59 (5/1/82)	425.57 (10/3/83)	61.41 (13/12/74)
22 Brewers and Distillers (23)	434.91	+0.4	11.66	4.92	10.47	433.18	437.92	439.68	443.13	304.48	486.54 (15/2/83)	261.00 (12/1/82)	486.54 (15/2/83)	69.47 (13/12/74)
25 Food Manufacturing (21)	341.15	+0.4	13.59	5.61	8.63	339.69	342.58	345.47	346.74	278.29	350.37 (10/3/83)	255.63 (21/6/82)	350.37 (10/3/83)	59.67 (11/12/74)
26 Food Retailing (14)	823.00	+0.9	7.74	2.95	16.24	815.37	820.60	826.78	827.68	610.23	915.86 (17/11/82)	545.79 (5/1/82)	915.86 (17/11/82)	54.25 (11/12/74)
27 Health and Household Products (8)	794.65	+0.7	5.06	2.33	23.48	788.96	798.67	810.58	792.25	399.06	810.58 (28/3/83)	338.70 (5/1/82)	810.58 (28/3/83)	175.38 (28/5/80)
29 Leisure (24)	519.05	+0.2	7.92	4.63	16.41	518.25	520.99	522.08	519.64	459.13	524.29 (16/3/83)	395.85 (9/7/82)	524.29 (16/3/83)	54.83 (9/1/75)
32 Newspapers, Publishing (14)	779.99	+1.4	8.11	4.14	16.16	769.30	763.86	764.43	768.41	532.25	779.99 (31/3/83)	472.39 (14/1/82)	779.99 (31/3/83)	55.08 (6/1/75)
33 Packaging and Paper (14)	156.97	+2.2	13.04	6.39	9.02	153.56	157.05	160.51	160.39	147.54	170.70 (17/2/83)	130.74 (5/1/82)	170.70 (17/2/83)	43.46 (6/1/75)
34 Stores (48)	352.05	+0.3	8.54	3.93	15.55	350.84	351.28	352.67	354.87	283.10	397.17 (19/11/82)	238.02 (5/1/82)	397.17 (19/11/82)	52.63 (6/1/75)
35 Textiles (22)	198.43	+0.3	12.89	5.63	9.30	197.86	197.84	197.70	196.93	176.09	203.00 (10/3/83)	152.91 (5/1/82)	235.72 (17/1/67)	62.66 (11/12/74)
36 Tobaccos (3)	452.26	+2.8	19.36	6.12	5.77	439.86	444.03	451.14	456.10	316.14	516.31 (3/2/83)	251.28 (6/1/82)	516.31 (3/2/83)	94.34 (13/6/62)
39 Other Consumer (10)	375.48	−0.2	6.64	3.89	—	376.14	375.04	377.24	376.21	297.11	387.98 (15/3/83)	247.87 (1/1/82)	387.98 (15/3/83)	229.84 (28/9/81)
41 OTHER GROUPS (79)	331.09	—	9.06	4.94	13.62	331.18	333.17	334.39	336.05	259.67	339.29 (15/3/83)	228.88 (5/1/82)	339.29 (15/3/83)	58.63 (6/1/75)
42 Chemicals (15)	431.71	+0.1	9.19	5.62	13.58	431.37	432.99	431.80	433.66	338.96	436.82 (10/3/83)	297.89 (5/1/82)	436.82 (10/3/83)	71.20 (1/12/74)
44 Office Equipment (6)	103.72	+1.0	8.50	5.20	15.14	102.65	105.03	105.75	107.41	127.64	131.88 (29/1/82)	78.52 (22/12/82)	246.06 (1/9/72)	45.34 (2/1/75)
45 Shipping and Transport (14)	644.41	+0.7	11.61	6.32	10.52	639.95	641.78	645.86	644.41	580.17	654.35 (22/3/83)	496.46 (10/12/82)	654.35 (22/3/83)	90.80 (29/6/62)
46 Miscellaneous (44)	463.94	−0.4	8.41	3.99	14.50	465.89	468.98	472.86	475.66	331.42	485.58 (16/3/83)	289.92 (5/1/82)	485.58 (16/3/83)	60.39 (6/7/75)
49 INDUSTRIAL GROUP (486)	414.27	+0.6	9.55	4.24	12.89	411.99	414.79	418.35	418.78	321.88	428.14 (15/3/83)	289.79 (5/1/82)	428.14 (15/3/83)	59.01 (13/12/74)
51 Oils (14)	797.44	+6.4	15.98	7.33	7.41	749.42	748.64	751.14	754.05	687.91	797.44 (31/3/83)	627.13 (10/5/82)	1065.24 (19/11/80)	87.23 (29/5/62)
59 500 SHARE INDEX	446.16	+1.4	10.54	4.72	11.58	439.96	442.45	445.89	446.54	351.73	455.82 (15/3/83)	324.63 (12/1/82)	455.82 (15/3/83)	63.49 (13/12/74)
61 FINANCIAL GROUP (121)	307.31	+0.2	—	5.96	—	306.76	309.61	312.27	312.60	259.12	317.67 (15/3/83)	238.23 (28/6/82)	317.67 (15/3/83)	55.88 (13/12/74)
62 Banks (6)	324.50	+0.2	27.88	7.59	3.95	323.98	330.81	332.63	335.26	270.11	357.74 (15/3/83)	249.31 (4/10/82)	357.74 (15/3/83)	62.44 (12/12/74)
63 Discount Houses (8)	290.90	−0.9	—	8.39	—	293.55	293.90	296.36	298.06	231.39	334.35 (14/10/82)	211.15 (7/1/82)	334.35 (14/10/82)	81.40 (10/12/74)
65 Insurance (Life) (9)	391.59	−0.7	—	5.38	—	394.47	396.44	402.55	399.95	269.68	402.55 (28/3/83)	243.18 (12/1/82)	402.55 (28/3/83)	44.88 (2/1/75)
66 Insurance (Composite) (10)	194.28	+1.7	—	7.63	—	191.11	191.08	194.04	194.90	163.61	206.80 (31/1/83)	147.23 (20/5/82)	206.80 (31/1/83)	43.96 (13/12/74)
67 Insurance Brokers (7)	601.51	+0.1	10.95	4.87	12.44	600.62	595.54	597.66	593.22	481.07	601.51 (31/3/83)	410.59 (13/1/82)	601.51 (31/3/83)	65.86 (16/12/74)
68 Merchant Banks (13)	166.79	−0.6	—	5.21	—	167.87	168.25	166.06	166.37	154.78	170.12 (8/2/83)	128.79 (5/7/82)	278.57 (1/5/72)	31.21 (7/1/75)
69 Property (54)	462.75	−0.3	5.59	3.78	23.64	463.99	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
70 Other Financial (14)	250.27	+0.2	11.58	5.10	10.36	249.74	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
71 Investment Trusts (109)	436.96	[illegible]	—	4.09	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
81 Mining Finance (4)	247.94	−0.8	7.39	5.74	18.89	249.83	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
91 Overseas Traders (16)	428.79	−0.7	9.51	8.48	14.98	431.64	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
99 ALL-SHARE INDEX (750)	431.94	+1.1	—	4.94	—	427.64	430.11	433.13	433.71	327.84	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FIXED INTEREST

	PRICE INDICES	Thur March 31	Day's change %	Wed March 30	xd adj. today	xd adj. 1983 to date
	British Government					
1	5 years	116.59	+0.23	116.32	—	2.92
2	5-15 years	128.64	+0.55	127.97	—	3.69
3	Over 15 years	138.40	+0.71	137.43	—	2.49
4	Irredeemables	148.12	+0.55	147.32	—	[illegible]
5	All Stocks	127.72	+0.51	127.08	—	3.10
6	Debentures and Loans	101.71	+0.39	101.31	—	2.98
7	Preference	80.10	—	80.10	—	2.28

	AVERAGE GROSS REDEMPTION YIELDS		Thur March 31	Wed March 30	Year ago (approx.)	1982/83 Highs	1982/83 Lows
	British Government						
1	Low	5 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	Coupons	15 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3		25 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Medium	5 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	Coupons	15 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6		25 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	High	5 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	Coupons	15 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
9		25 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	Irredeemables		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	Debs & Loans	5 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12		15 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
13		25 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	Preference		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Equity section or group	Base date	Base value	Equity section or group	Base date	Base value
Other Industrial Materials	31/12/80	287.41	Other Financial	31/12/70	128.06
Other Consumer	31/12/80	238.14	Food Manufacturing	29/12/67	114.13
Health/Household Prods.	30/12/77	261.77	Food Retailing	29/12/67	114.13
Other Groups	31/12/74	63.75	Insurance Brokers	29/12/67	96.67
Overseas Traders	31/12/74	100.00	Mining Finance	29/12/67	100.00
Engineering Contractors	31/12/71	153.84	All Other	10/4/62	100.00
Mechanical Engineering	31/12/71	153.84	British Government	31/12/75	100.00
Office Equipment	16/1/70	162.74	Debs. & Loans	31/12/77	100.00
Industrial Group	31/12/70	128.20	Preference	31/12/77	76.72

† Flat yield. A new list of the constituents is available from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4, price 15p, by post 28p. CONSTITUENT CHANGES: Deletions:—Anderson Strathclyde (06), [illegible] (04) and Christie-Tyler (39). Additions:—A. B. Electronic Products Group (04), Fleet Holdings (32) and Mount Charlotte Investments (29). RECLASSIFICATION: Wigfall (Henry) & Son has transferred from Group 29 to Group 34.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. b Figures based on prospectus estimates. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. g Assumed dividend and yield. u Forecast dividend; cover based on previous year's earnings. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1983-84. Q Gross. F Figures assumed. † Figures or report awaited. ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividend or ranking only for restricted dividends. § Placing price. p Pence unless otherwise indicated. ¶ Issued by tender. ‖ Offered to holders of ordinary shares as a "rights." ** Issued by way of capitalisation. §§ Reintroduced. ¶¶ Issued in connection with reorganisation merger or take-over. ‖‖ Introduction. □ Issued to former preference holders. ■ Allotment letters (or fully-paid). ● Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters. ★ With warrants.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1982/83

NEW HIGHS (73)

AMERICANS (2)
Louisiana Land, Time Inc.

CANADIANS (3)
Bank of Montreal, Royal Bk. of Canada, Hollinger

BUILDINGS (5)
Countryside, Nottingham Brick, Heywood Williams, Ramus, Miller (Stan)

CHEMICALS (1)
Hickson & Welch

STORES (4)
Cantors A, Hepworth (J.), De Brett (Andre), Lincroft Kilgour

ELECTRICALS (1)
Rediffusion

ENGINEERING (6)
Babcock Int., Garton Eng., Cartwright, Spirax-Sarco, Evered, Wagon Ind.

INDUSTRIALS (14)
BTR, Hargreaves, Berisfords, Nu-Swift, Centreway Ind., Photo-Me, Clarke (Clement), R.F.D., Crest Nicholson, Standard Fireworks, Dunhill, Steetley, Fisons, UKO Int.

INSURANCE (2)
Liberty Life, Sedgwick

MOTORS (1)
Lex Service

NEWSPAPERS (3)
Assoc. Book Pubs., Home Counties, East Mid. Allied A

PAPER (1)
Good Relations

PROPERTY (2)
Estates & General, Haslemere

SHOES (1)
Newbold & Burton

TEXTILES (2)
Dawson Int., Reliance Knitwear

TRUSTS (15)
Atlanta Baltimore, Monks Inv., Bankers Inv., Montagu Boston, Berry Trust, Murray Western B, Camellia Invs., North Atlantic Secs., Dundee & London, TR North America, Fleming Enterprise, Tribune Inv., General Funds, West Coast & Texas, London & Lomond

OIL & GAS (5)
Burmah, Shell Transport, Royal Dutch, Ultramar, SASOL

PLANTATIONS (1)
Cons. Plantations

MINES (4)
Jo'burg Cons., Lydenburg Plat., Impala Plat., Kamunting

NEW LOWS (7)

BANKS (1)
English Assoc.

BUILDINGS (2)
AMEC, Dew (George)

STORES (1)
Ratners

ELECTRICALS (1)
Breville Europe

INDUSTRIALS (1)
AIM

PROPERTY (1)
Utd. Real

ACTIVE STOCKS

Above average activity was noted in the following stocks Thursday

Stock	Thurs. Closing price	Day's change	Stock	Thurs. Closing price	Day's change
Bowater	170	+ 7	Johnson Cleaners	340	− 8
BP	340	+24	London & Liverpool	430	+ 6
Burmah Oil	175	+14	Lucas Inds	156	− 6
Cowan de Groot	35	+ 6	Ocean Trans	91	+ 6
Fisons	580	+27	Turner & Newall	36	+ 6
GRE	432	+10	Vaal Reefs	£67⅞	+ 2⅞

WEDNESDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

Based on bargains recorded in SE Official List

Stock	No. of changes	Wed. close	Day's change	Stock	No. of changes	Wed. close	Day's change
Glaxo	28	810	−30	LASMO	14	228	+ 8
Bowater	21	163	− 9	Arlen Elect	13	278	− 6
Lon & Liv Tst	18	424	−11	Babcock Intl	13	138	+ 5
BAT Inds	15	630	−10	GEC	13	199	− 1
Bridon	14	44	+ 8	Hanson Tst	13	188	+ 5
Brown (J.)	14	24	+ 4	Racal Elect	13	424	− 4
Exco Intl	14	685	−43	Ultramar	12	545	+10

4-DAY ACTIVE STOCKS

Based on bargains over the four-day period ending Wednesday

Stock	No. of changes	Weds. close	Change on week	Stock	No. of changes	Weds. close	Change on week
Glaxo	163	810	+70	Bowater	56	163	−13
Lon & Liv Tst	108	424	−54	Unilever	56	845	−23
Exco Intl	79	685	−20	Burmah Oil	55	161	+11
BAT Inds	74	630	−25	BICC	54	223	− 9
Bio-Isolates	69	235	−20	Trident TV A	54	102½	+ 5½
Racal Elect	67	424	+ 6	Lex Service	53	231	+ 8

INSURANCE & OVERSEAS MANAGED FUNDS

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

FT LONDON SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
100⅝	92⅞	Treasury 9½pc '83	99⅝	......	9.28	10.54
104⅝	96⅞	Exch. 13pc '83	101⅝	......	13.26	10.59
101⅞	91½	Exch. 10pc 1983	99⅝	......	10.04	10.48

Five to Fifteen Years

Over Fifteen Years

Undated

Index-Linked & Variable Rate

INT. BANK AND O'SEAS GOVT. STERLING ISSUES

CORPORATION LOANS

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
104½	90¼	Sunderland 12¼pc 1984	101½	+⅛	11.07	11.19

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
98⅞	85¾	Aust. 6pc 1981-83	98½	......	6.21	11.39
63¼	57	N.Z. 7½pc 1988-92	75	−½	9.30	12.12
93½	74¾	Do. 7½pc '83-86	90¾	+⅛	8.51	12.04
167	136	S. Rhod. 2½pc Non-Ass.	160	......	—	—
80	58	Do. 3½pc 80-85 Assd.	77	......	4.55	15.00
55	32	Do. 4½pc 87-92 Assd.	47	......	7.54	15.90
402	318	Zimbabwe Ann (£100pa)	325xd	+2	—	19.60

LOANS

Public Board and Ind.

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
77½	57¾	Agric. Mt. 5pc '59-89	75¾	......	6.71	10.61
33	24¾	Met. Wtr. 3pc 'B'	31¾	......	9.52	12.10

LOANS—Continued

Financial

Building Societies

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

AMERICANS

CANADIANS

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Gross	C'vr	Yld Gr's
		Talcorp	68p	+3	—	—	—
150p	125p	Do. Pref. $3	N150p	......	10%	—	12.9
25¾	996p	Tor. Dom. Bk. $1	25⅝xd	......	$2.00	—	4.2
15⅝	743p	♥Trans Can Pipe	13⅞	−⅛	$1.28	—	5.2

BANKS, H.P. & LEASING

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's	P/E
282	182	ANZ $A1	205	......	Q28c	3.1	7.8	4.1
315	205	Alexanders D. £1	278	−2	20.0	—	10.3	—
£91	£48	Algemene Fl.100	£89	......	vQ26%	ϕ	7.2	ϕ
118	75	Allied Irish	118	+3	Q6.3%	4.0	8.8	3.6
164	77	Arbuthnot (H.) 50p	90	......	3.5	—	5.6	—
290	200	Bk. Ireland £1	290	+5	±Q9.4%	—	9.2	—
3½	2	Bank Leumi	2½	......	—	—	—	—
*227	130	Bk. Leumi (UK) £1	165	......	10.13	—	8.8	—

BANKS—Continued

Hire Purchase, Leasing, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS—Cont.

DRAPERY AND STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICALS—Continued

For Wigfall (H.) see Stores

ENGINEERING MACHINE TOOLS

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

INSURANCES

LEISURE

LEISURE—Continued

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

PAPER, PRINTING ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

PROPERTY—Continued

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

SOUTH AFRICANS

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Investment Trusts

INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.

Finance, Land, etc.

OIL AND GAS

OIL AND GAS—Continued

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PLANTATIONS

Rubbers, Palm Oil

Teas

MINES

Central Rand

Eastern Rand

Far West Rand

O.F.S.

Finance

Diamond and Platinum

MINES—Continued

Central African

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or –	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
300	75	Falcon Rh.50c	250	......	Q25c	10.3	6.4
33	16	Wankie Col. Z$1	19	......	†Q3c	1.2	9.9
28	12	Zam.Cpr.SBD0.24	20	+1	—	—	—

Australians

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or –	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
28½	10	♥ACM 20c	14½	–½	—	—	—
28	6	♥Argosy Gold NL 25c	6½	......	♦	—	—
25	11	Balmoral Resources	14	......	—	—	—
63	42	♥Black Hill Mins	45	+1	—	—	—
151	52	♥Bond Corp	60	......	gQ10c	2.3	10.2
154	58	♥Bougainville 1 Kina	133	–2	Q3.42c	1.2	1.6
273	147	♥CRA 50c	263	+3	Q3c	—	0.7
*150	6	♥Carr Boyd 20c	73xr	–1	—	—	—
56	10	♥Central Pacific	18	......	—	—	—
380	152	♥Crusader Oil	290	......	—	—	—
26	7	♥Cultus Pac NL	8	......	—	—	—
27	7	♥Eagle Corp 10c	10½	......	—	—	—
23	8½	♥Endeavour 20c	9	......	—	—	—
810	120	♥GM Kalgoorlie 25c	510	......	hQ10c	♦	1.1
244	134	Hampton Areas 10p	176	–2	¶3.75	2.8	3.2
32	10	♥Haoma NW	16	......	—	—	—
94	28	♥Hill Minerals N.L.	43	–2	—	—	—
22	9	♥Intnl Mining	14	......	—	—	—
42	2	♥Kalbara Min 20c	39	......	—	—	—
15½	5	♥Keywest Expl	14	......	—	—	—
130	30	♥Kitchener NL 25c	54	......	—	—	—
190	92	♥Meekatharra 25c	105	......	—	—	—
44	15	♥Metals Ex 50c	32	......	—	—	—
52	15	♥Metramar Mns 20c	26	......	—	—	—
50	15	♥Mid East Mins A$1	24	......	—	—	—
279	143	♥MIM Hldgs 50c	248	+4	Q5c	—	1.2
57	5	♥Mincorp 20c	8	......	—	—	—
8	2½	♥Minefields Expl 25c	5	......	—	—	—
34	14	♥Newmetal 20c	30	+2	—	—	—
177	77	♥North B Hill 50c	133	+3	gQ6c	7.3	2.6
*84	10	Nth. Kalgurli	41	+1	—	—	—
123	58	♥Oakbridge 50c	60	+1	Q7c	1.7	6.8
98	34	♥Pacific Copper	48	......	—	—	—
150	64	♥Pancont'l 25c	84	–2	—	—	—
54	35	Paringa Mng & Expln 5p	48	–2	—	—	—
448	211	♥Peko-Wallsend 50c	336	–2	Q15c	—	0.3
31½	6	♥Pelsart Res NL	8	......	—	—	—
273	112	♥Renison 50c	230	......	‡Q5c	—	‡
210	105	♥Do Defd	205	......	—	—	—
72	30	♥Seltrust A	64	+2	♦	—	—
27	7½	♥Southern Pacific	8	......	—	—	—
50	16	♥Swan Res 20c	38	......	—	—	—
52	39	Untd Goldfields Cpn NL	N52	......	—	—	—
24	2½	♥West Coast 25c	11	......	—	—	—
50	6	♥Western Cont. 50c	22	–1	—	—	—
278	150	Westn. Mining 50c	243	+5	‡Q2½c	♦	‡
93	11	♥Whim Creek 20c	58	......	—	—	—
30	6	♥York Resources	12	......	—	—	—

Tins

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or –	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
255	135	Ayer Hitam $M1	230xd	+3	‡Q95c	[illegible]	$
150	55	Geevor	140	......	—	—	—
12	9½	Gold & Base 12½p	12	......	—	—	—
630	250	Gopeng Cons.	435	......	20.0	[illegible]	6.6
670	330	Hongkong	525	......	21.0	♦	5.7
24	13	Jantar 12½p	18	......	1.5	[illegible]	11.9
165	42	Kamunting $M0.50	165	+18	†vQ27½c	[illegible]	3.0
700	350	Killinghall $M1	650	......	vQ50c	[illegible]	2.3
98	43	Malaysia Mng. 10c	93	......	vQ17.1c	[illegible]	5.5
45	20	♥Pahang	41	......	BQ0.63	[illegible]	‡
450	280	Pengkalen 10p	325	......	1.0	—	0.4
330	190	Petaling $M1	320	......	vQ60c	[illegible]	5.6
215	130	Sungei Besi $M1	215	......	†vQ185c	[illegible]	‡
55	25	♥Supreme Corp M$1	45	......	vhQ3¼c	♦	2.6
110	93	Tanjong 15p	102	......	g3.5	—	4.9
85	43	♥Tongkah H. Tin $M1	70	......	vQ5c	[illegible]	1.8
285	125	Tronoh $M1	285	......	†vQ50c	[illegible]	5.3

Miscellaneous

1982/83 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or –	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
170	141	Admiral Mines	160	......	—	—	—
90	20	♥Anglo-Dominion	60	–10	—	—	—
125	25	♥Anglo Utd. Dev.	82	......	—	—	—
135	27	♥Colby Res Corp	85	–5	—	—	—
485	170	Cons. Murch. 10c	420	–18	‡Q60c	1.9	‡
8	1½	‡‡Explaura Gold	3½	......	—	—	—
155	55	♥Highwood Res	115	......	—	—	—
£20¾	£12½	Homestake Mining $1	£17½	+¼	Q40c	—	1.5
495	160	Northgate C$1	375	......	—	—	—
552	344	R.T.Z.	505	–5	16.0	1.6	4.5
£122	£84	Do.9½%Cv.Un.Ln.'95-2000	£112	–1	Q9½%	23.9	f8.7
33	11	♥Sabina Inds C$1	25	......	—	—	—
17½	12½	‡Southwest Res 10p	14	......	—	—	—
530	270	♥Tara Exptn $1	470	......	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/Es are calculated on "net" distribution basis, earnings per share being computed on profit after taxation and unrelieved ACT where applicable; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution; this compares gross dividend costs to profit after taxation, excluding exceptional profits/losses but including estimated extent of offsettable ACT. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 30 per cent and allow for value of declared distribution and rights.

- ● "Tap" Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents on application.
- ♦ Figures or report awaited.
- ♥ Not officially UK Listed; dealings permitted under Rule 163(4)(a).
- ♣ USM; not listed on Stock Exchange and company not subjected to same degree of regulation as listed securities.
- ‡‡ Dealt in under Rule 163(3).
- # Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividend or forecast.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ♦ Not comparable.
- ♦ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim statement.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ‖ No par value.

B.Fr. Belgian Francs. Fr. French Francs. ¢¢ Yield based on assumption Treasury Bill Rate stays unchanged until maturity of stock. a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital, cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Subject to local tax. x Dividend cover in excess of 100 times. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Minimum tender price. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1983-84. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1984. K Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1982-83. M Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1983. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1982-83. P Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1982. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xz ex capital distribution.

REGIONAL AND IRISH STOCKS

The following is a selection of regional and Irish stocks, the latter being quoted in Irish currency.

Albany Inv. 20p	52	......			
Bertrams	17¢	......			
Bdg'wtr. Est. 50p	525	......			
Craig & Rose £1	£12	......			
Finlay Pkg. 5p	37	......			
Graig Ship. £1	£19	+½			
Higsons Brew	105	......			
Holt (Jos) 25p	910	......			
I.O.M. Stm. £1	98	+5			
Pearce (C. H.)	£14	......			
Peel Hldgs.	182	......			

IRISH

Exch. 15pc 1983	£99⅞	+⅛
Nat. 9¾% 84/89	£86¼	+⅜
Fnl 13% 97/02	£93¼	+¼
Alliance Gas	105	......
Arnott	180	......
Carroll (P.J.)	100	+3
Concrete Prods.	52	+4
Heiton (Hldgs.)	13	......
Irish Ropes	28	......
Jacob	68	+3
T.M.G.	85	......
Unidare	40	......

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

Industrials					
Allied-Lyons	15	House of Fraser	15	Utd. Drapery	7
BOC Grp	17	I.C.I.	24	Vickers	12
B.S.R.	6	"Imps"	10	Woolworth Hld.	15
Babcock	18	I.C.L.	8	**Property**	
Barclays Bank	35	Ladbroke	16	Brit. Land	7½
Beecham	35	Legal & Gen.	28	Cap. Counties	12
Blue Circle	44	Lex Service	16	Land Secs.	26
Boots	22	Lloyds Bank	35	MEPC	17
Bowaters	19	"Lofs"	4	Peachey	14
Brit. Aerospace	20	London Brick	11	Samuel Props.	10
B.A.T.	50	Lucas Inds.	12	Town & City	3
Brown (J.)	4	"Mams"	12	**Oils**	
Burton Ord.	24	Mrks. & Spncr	16	Brit. Petroleum	26
Cadburys	11	Midland Bank	30	Burmah Oil	12
Courtaulds	8	N.E.I.	9	Charterhall	5
Debenhams	8½	Nat. West. Bank	38	KCA	8
Distillers	20	P & O Dfd.	14	Premier	4
Dunlop	5½	Plessey	50	Shell	35
Eagle Star	30	Racal Elect.	45	Tricentrol	22
F.N.F.C.	4	R.H.M.	6	Ultramar	42
Gen. Accident	30	Rank Org. Ord.	15	**Mines**	
Gen. Electric	24	Reed Intnl.	26	Charter Cons.	20
Glaxo	45	Sears	9	Cons. Gold	40
Grand Met.	25	T.I.	13	Lonrho	8
G.U.S. 'A'	50	Tesco	8	Rio T. Zinc	42
Guardian	35	Thorn EMI	38		
G.K.N.	15	Trust Houses	13		
Hawker Sidd	30	Turner & Newall	4		
		Unilever	65		

A selection of Options traded is given on the London Stock Exchange Report page

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 22

FINANCIAL TIMES

Saturday April 2 1983

MAN IN THE NEWS

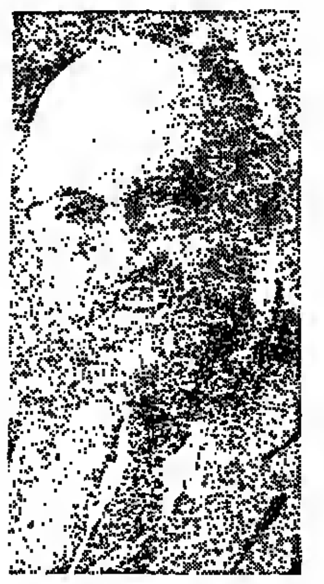
Sharing out the profits

BY ALAN PIKE

IT WAS entirely natural that Philip Baxendale should follow his father into the family business which was founded by his great grandfather in the latter days of the Industrial Revolution.

But if the line of succession ever extends to any of Philip Baxendale's own four children, it will be in a markedly different company. This week he voluntarily and enthusiastically turned Richard Baxendale and Sons, manufacturers of the famous Baxi heating range, into a partnership owned and controlled by the workforce.

Ideas for workforce partnerships, co-operatives and other alternatives to conventional corporate organisations are as old as the little general foundry business which Richard Baxen-



Philip Baxendale

dale established in Lancashire in 1866. But the number of people willing to surrender ownership of their family's business inheritance in this way, particularly when it is financially sound and growing, is small.

Baxendale, 56, who became general manager of Baxi in 1955 and later chairman, is not the type of person who would turn a company over to the workforce in order to make a political or sociological point. And his action reflects no loss of interest in his great grandfather's foundation—he will remain chairman of the new organisation on a non-share owning basis.

Since 1963 the management and employees have met together in a works council. Participation was formally adopted as one of the company's objectives in 1964, and a year later a profit sharing scheme was introduced. Employees are unsupervised on early morning and evening shifts in the foundry.

"In a lot of companies the employees boo when you talk about profits. Ours say hooray because they benefit. It seems reasonable that if you want people to help a company make good profits they should share in them," says Baxendale. But the developments which he has pioneered in Baxi are not an escape from the real world into paternalism. The engineering, transport and sheet metal workers' unions are all organised in the company, and the shop stewards' convener has an automatic seat on the works council.

The growth of Baxi, from 60 employees in 1955 to more than 900 today, led to a feeling that it was straining the limits of a family business. Its shareholders —Mr Baxendale, his cousin Mrs Joan Caselton and their family and charitable trusts—did not want the company's identity put at risk by a public flotation or sale to a competitor. All supported the partnership alternative and Mr Baxendale found eager allies in Mr Ian Smith, his managing director, and Mr Geoffrey Whittle, the recently-retired finance director who did the detailed work on the scheme.

At first the group was unsure how to achieve its objective. But an introduction to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and discussions with the Inland Revenue led to the use of provisions of the 1982 Finance Act under which a company can buy back its own shares. Up to 49 per cent of Baxi's share capital will be given to its employees, while the remainder will be held in an employee trust.

Control of the company will be divided between an executive board and a partnership council, on similar lines to the West German industrial democracy structure which Mr Baxendale has studied. But many of the final details of the partnership arrangements have still to be decided. These, as befits the spirit of participation which Philip Baxendale has introduced into the company, are matters for discussion in the works council.

Upward jobless trend remains

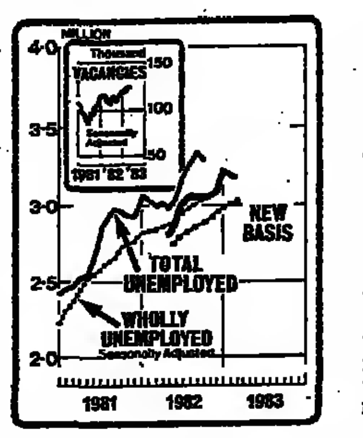
BY MAX WILKINSON, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

UNEMPLOYMENT figures, including those of school leavers, fell for the second successive month in March. The underlying trend, however, continued to rise.

The latest figures, announced on Thursday, show that the total unemployed, including school leavers, reached 3.17m in March, 27,000 fewer than in February. Seasonally adjusted, however, the total excluding school leavers rose by 25,000 to 3.03m.

The figures contrast gloomily with the recent rather brighter economic news which suggests that a moderate UK recovery may have started.

Ministers have cautioned repeatedly that the unemployment figures would take time to respond to a more favourable trend in output. The Treasury as well as independent forecasters expect unemployment to go on rising for most of this year.



One encouraging aspect of the latest figures is that vacancies reported to job centres have continued to rise. The average number reported in the three months to March was 124,000, an increase of 2,800, compared with the three months to February.

This was the ninth successive month in which the trend of vacancies had increased. Seasonally adjusted there were 126,100 vacancies reported in March, an increase of 14 per cent over a year ago. Vacancies were higher than at any time since July, 1980.

On the other hand the increase of 25,000 in the seasonally adjusted total of unemployment shows little evidence of a moderating trend. The average monthly increase in unemployment in the 12 months to March was 28,000, with about 24,000 a month in the late autumn.

The total excludes those in special employment and training schemes. In January, 650,000 were taking part in nine of these schemes.

The largest was the Youth Opportunities Programme which provided work experience for about 250,000 school leavers aged 16 to 17. The next largest was the Temporary Short Time Working Compensation Scheme, which gave official support for 148,000 people who might otherwise have been made redundant.

It is officially estimated that the combined effect of these special schemes was to reduce the unemploymnt total by 360,000.

In spite of the continuing bleak outlook for unemployment, the last two monthly surveys by the Confederation of British Industry have suggested improved optimism among companies, with a better outlook for orders and exports.

Other figures suggest that manufacturing output may be picking up again. Increased imports suggest that fast depletion of stocks reported at the end of last year may be ending.

Redundancy rate, Page 4
U.S. unemployment, Page 2

BS to seek cut of 6,000 jobs

BY ANDREW FISHER AND JOHN LLOYD

MERCHANT shipbuilding in Britain could be dead in two or three years unless the Government steps in and unions agree to at least 6,000 job losses. Sir Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders, has told shipbuilding unions.

He gave union negotiators details of the nearly 9,000 jobs that state-owned British Shipbuilders has said are the maximum at risk in the shipbuilding crisis.

British Shipbuilders is struggling for business and recently won a £25m order from Ethiopia. But Sir Robert said between 6,000 and 7,000 jobs would inevitably have to go, however the market picked up.

It has listed 8,840 jobs as the most that will have to be shed. The brunt of redundancies will be borne by Scotland, where offshore yard Scott Lithgow, building oil and gas rigs and the Govan merchant shipbuilding yard will suffer most. Both yards are on the Clyde.

The Scott Lithgow yard was again criticised by Sir Robert at Thursday's meeting with unions. It will lose 2,150 jobs of its present 5,500. Sir Robert said Scott Lithgow had not delivered products on time and "has not yet put its house in order."

Govan, well regarded by British Shipbuilders for its performance but lacking orders, will lose 1,130 jobs.

The other offshore yard, Cammell Laird on Merseyside which also builds warships, is set to lose 1,400 jobs. Nearly 3,700 jobs could be lost on the merchant side, 3,550 in offshore work, about 1,300 in warship yards and 300 in engineering.

Official union reaction has been muted and cautious, although Clyeside shop stewards may attempt to mount local action in the coming weeks.

Mr James Murray, secretary of the boilermakers' section of the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, said yesterday the two sides would meet in four to five weeks following a shipyard delegate conference.

It was too early to say what strategy the unions might adopt but "something like an overtime ban, for example, would just be suicide at the present. We're in a very difficult situation indeed."

Mr Murray said the two sides had agreed to observe the status quo until they met again. British Shipbuilders has withdrawn short-time working at Kincaid yard on the Clyde, so ending a dispute there. The unions have appealed to members not to undertake any action before the delegate conference.

Sir Robert said at the Newcastle meeting that British Shipbuilders was at a watershed. Without government and union support, "what I am saying is that we stand a real chance of the industry going out in two or three years."

He was referring to merchant and offshore work. He again criticised what he called "the false prices and financial packages" quoted in South Korea and Japan.

"Unless the EEC acts vigorously and without delay, European shipbuilding will become extinct." He would try to persuade the Government to press the EEC for action against Far Eastern subsidies and uncompetitive prices.

In Britain, he said, "the industry's very survival is in grave doubt." He repeated to union representatives that British Shipbuilders could afford no wage rise this year.

Sir Robert will ask the Government for special aid to encourage UK shipowners to order in Britain. Losses at British Shipbuilders over the past year (1982-83) are estimated at £50m-£70m.

He will press for speedier Government ordering of vessels for naval support or domestic coastal patrol use.

There was no entitlement to Government help, he said. British Shipbuilders would have to help itself through further job and pay sacrifices.

The jobs would start to go in the next few months and the whole operation be completed in a year, he said.

Clydeside prepares for battle, Page 4

Further strikes threaten motor industry

BY BRIAN GROOM AND ARTHUR SMITH

HOPES OF an end to the motor industry's rash of strikes may prove premature, even if shop stewards at Ford's Halewood plant on Merseyside support a formula thrashed out at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service on Thursday.

Acas intervened to resolve the four-week strike over the sacking of an assembly worker. However, a further strike is threatened at the adjacent Halewood body plant over changed working practices.

At BL's car factory at Cowley, Oxford, union leaders are expected to recommend rejection of a company peace plan to be put to the 5,000 workers on strike since Monday over "washing-up time."

Halewood's joint union committee will meet on Tuesday to consider the Acas formula for ending the dispute over the dismissal of 25-year-old Mr Paul Kelly for allegedly bending an 86p bracket in a car. So far it has cost £80m in lost production.

Stewards will consider the proposal seriously because it follows closely the Transport and General Workers' Union's call for third-party arbitration. However, it is a "broad understanding" rather than an agreed formula and no recommendation will be made by union negotiators.

I involves setting up a three-man inquiry to investigate the allegations against Mr Kelly, headed by a legally-qualified chairman sitting with representatives of the employers and the union side.

Mr Kelly would stay sacked but receive an ex-gratia payment equivalent to basic pay pending the inquiry's decision. This is where the difficulty remains. The TGWU wanted him to be considered suspended rather than sacked or at least to be paid full normal earnings.

Mr Paul Roots, Ford's industrial relations director, said the deal was conditional on a return-to-work.

The second strike threat is over work practices Ford might begin introducing in the body plant eight days after the end of the assembly strike. The TGWU claims some of them are Japanese-style changes which require national agreement.

The BL dispute is over the company's insistence that workers at the Cowley assembly plant should no longer clock off three minutes before the end of shifts.

Stewards are expected to decide next Wednesday to recommend rejection to a mass meeting.

Rothmans buys stake in Cartier

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

ROTHMANS International, the tobacco and brewing group, is to take a 20 per cent stake in Cartier, the Paris-based jeweller and luxury goods manufacturer, for £30m cash.

The aim is to expand Rothmans' luxury goods business carried out under the Dunhill name and strengthen the links established with Rothmans' launch of the Cartier luxury cigarette brand in 1978.

It is the first manufacturing company to take a holding in Cartier.

Rothmans said: "We had talked to Cartier a lot as a result of the cigarette deal and the question of us taking a stake in the business just arose from that."

It will acquire a stake in Cartier Monde, the privately-owned Swiss holding company. There are no plans to appoint anyone to the Cartier board.

Rothmans will provide £27m of the purchase price, with £3m coming from associate companies in the Far East and on the Continent involved in marketing Cartier cigarettes.

Rothmans, whose brands include Peter Stuyvesant and Lord Extra, will acquire tangible assets worth £12.4m, of which £11.2m is attributable to the main group.

Profits-after-tax attributable to these assets were £3m in the year to December 31 1981.

The Cartier group has an annual turnover of about £170m. Founded by Louis François Cartier in 1847, it split into separate units in Paris, London and New York around the turn of the century then was reunited during the 1970s.

Cartier began as a designer of exclusive jewellery. Later it established Les Must de Cartier division which introduced a range of lighters, watches and clocks, leather goods, pens and pencils over the past 10 years. Recent additions to the range include perfume, sunglasses and spectacle frames.

Rothmans' Dunhill business had sales of £75m in 1982—3 per cent of the group total—and made an operating profit of £5.2m—5 per cent of the group total.

Cartier's existing shareholders include its directors, banks, trust funds and institutions. There are no immediate plans for a further increase in the Rothmans' holding.

Rothmans' shares were unchanged at 107p on Thursday.

Continued from Page 1

Peace movement

offerings ranged from Wouldn't it be Loverly to the Hokey Kokey, the latter being interrupted by a voice which said: "I say, we're from Winchester, we don't go in for that kind of thing."

There were itinerant jazz bands, piano accordians, a Jews' harp and one determined middle-aged man in a yellow anorak who patiently picked his way through a smooth tenor solo from the anti-nuclear song book: Take the Toys from the Boys was his offering.

A man in pink dungarees and hiking boots stood on a wall and read a poem whose undiluted message was: troops out of Ireland.

In short, the peace people tried hard, against the meteorological odds, to have fun in the face of Armageddon. "But it wasn't as much fun as the last Greenham demo—then we sang and danced," said one Birmingham woman on this occasion exiled to the mixed-sex component of the peace movement.

Much had been made of resident dissatisfaction at the impact of the chain on Good Friday peace and indeed most of the signs directing traffic had been disfigured in one way or another.

But in practice, for 50,000 people dumped along the pastoral lanes of Berkshire, there was little rumpus and 1,000 police seemed to cope without so much as a frown.

Continued from Page 1

Sterling

rate, which measures sterling against a trade-weighted basket of currencies, gained a full point on Thursday to finish at 79.5 (1975=100).

However, that still leaves sterling's effective devaluation since last November—when the slide began—at 13 per cent.

Trade in the currency market was very thin ahead of the holiday, a fact which accelerated sterling's rise. Most of the buyers were to be found among people who had sold sterling short before the British National Oil Corporation announced its new pricing structure on Wednesday, restoring a degree of confidence to the market.

Weather

UK TODAY

WINTRY showers. Cold.

S.E., Central and North Central England

Mostly cloudy. Occasional showers Max. 7C (45F).

Rest of the country

Sunny periods, scattered wintry showers. Snow, frost and icy roads in more northern areas. Max. 5C (41F).

Outlook: Unsettled.

WORLDWIDE

		Y'day midday °C	°F			Y'day midday °C	°F
Ajaccio	F	14	57	Luxmbg.	C	6	43
Algiers	C	18	64	Luxor		—	—
Amsdm.	R	9	48	Madeira		—	—
Athens	C	18	61	Madrid	F	12	54
Bahrain		—	—	Majorca	F	14	57
Barclna.	F	15	59	Malaga	C	18	64
Beirut	S	26	79	Malta	S	15	59
Belfast	F	8	46	M'chstr.	C	7	45
Belgrd.	C	15	59	Melbne.	C	16	61
Berlin	C	12	54	Mx. C.†		—	—
Biarritz	R	8	46	Miami†	C	13	55
Bmghm.	C	6	43	Milan	S	13	55
Blackpl.	C	8	46	Montrl.†	C	−2	28
Bordx.	C	9	48	Moscow		—	—
Boulgn.	R	6	43	Munich	C	9	48
Bristol	C	7	45	Nairobi	F	27	81
Brussels	C	9	48	Naples	F	14	57
Budpst.	C	15	59	Nassau		—	—
Cairo		—	—	Nwcstl.	F	7	45
Cardiff	C	8	46	N. York		—	—
Cas'b'ca	C	17	63	Nice	R	12	54
Cape T.	S	23	73	Nicosia		—	—
Chicg.†	C	5	41	Oporto	R	13	55
Cologne	F	12	54	Oslo	S	5	41
Cpnhgn.	S	11	52	Paris	R	5	41
Corfu	C	18	64	Perth	F	25	77
Denver†	C	0	32	Prague	R	6	43
Dublin	F	8	46	Reykjvk.	T	0	32
Dbrvnk.	C	15	59	Rhodes	F	20	68
Ednbgh.	C	8	46	Rio J'o		—	—
Faro	F	17	63	Rome	S	16	61
Florence	C	12	54	Salzbrg.	C	9	48
Frankft.	F	12	54	S F'cisco†	C	10	50
Geneva	R	7	45	S. Moritz		—	—
Gibraltar	C	17	63	Singapr.	F	33	91
Glasgow	C	8	46	S'tiago		—	—
G'nsey	C	6	43	Stckhm.	F	8	46
Helsinki	S	5	41	Strasbg.	F	12	54
H. Kong	F	21	70	Sydney	C	21	70
Innsbrk.	F	11	52	Tangier	C	17	63
Invrnss.	C	6	43	Tel Aviv	S	29	84
I.o.Man	F	8	46	Tenerife	C	19	66
Istanbul	F	18	64	Tokyo	R	10	50
Jersey	F	8	46	Toronto†	C	−3	27
Jo'burg	F	25	77	Tunis	S	20	68
L. Plms.	C	18	64	Valencia	S	19	66
Lisbon	F	15	59	Venice	F	12	54
Locarno	C	10	50	Vienna	R	9	48
London	R	7	45	Warsaw	C	15	58
L. Ang.†	C	14	57	Zurich	F	10	50

C—Cloudy. F—Fair. R—Rain. S—Sunny. T—Thunder. †Noon GMT temperatures.

THE LEX COLUMN

A peak with a view

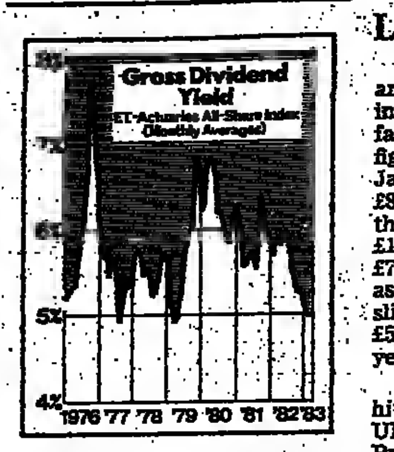
Index rose 4.1 to 655.1

The bewilderment of the proverbial Birmingham manufacturer at the behaviour of the London stock market is a well-documented social phenomenon. Whenever the squeeze on the manufacturers is at its worst—when order books are empty, half the workforce laid-off or sacked and the banks taking a hard line—the equity market fizzes off towards new highs. And conversely, just when business is booming away, the City takes fright and marks share values down savagely. In this light, the fall in the equity market this week after the CBI finally managed to uncover evidence of economic recovery, is hardly uncharacteristic. In fact, many investors are already beginning to worry about the timing of the top of the bull cycle.

With inflation muddying comparisons and international monetary policies changing the shape of the trade cycle, bull and bear markets have become a good deal harder to isolate, let alone define. Nevertheless, it is obvious enough that the UK market is in a bull phase—and a fairly mature one at that. Penny stocks have risen manyfold on rumour and speculation; stagging has become the most popular urban sport in London; the market p/e is high by recent standards, while dividend yields are low.

The upward movement of the FT-A All-Share Index suggests that the equity market has been in a steady bull phase since the low point in December 1974. Since then the dips and peaks around the underlying trend have been relatively modest. Adjusting for inflation, however, the peaks and troughs become a great deal more pronounced (and the index is still only halfway back to the 1972 peak). On this basis, the 1974 bottom was succeeded by a top early in 1976 and another bottom later in the same year. From then there was a more or less steady rise until early 1979, succeeded by a long trough to late 1981, since when the index has gained strongly.

Clasically, a bull market turning point has been signalled when interest rates bottom and begin to move up again. Research by brokers Phillips and Drew on turning points since 1966 tends to confirm a relationship between short-term rates and the equity market. However, recently interest rates have more often been a lagging or coincident indicator than a leading one, so money market movements may be unreliably late for informing investment strategy. Moreover,



for this point in the economic cycle real interest rates are still very high, suggesting that old relationships may be under attack.

Analysis of bull and bear market movements is perhaps on safer ground when it turns to the changes in stock valuation, in terms either of yield or p/e. Bull markets develop through two phases. In the first the valuation of stock moves up; in the second, profits and dividends gain strongly to keep the momentum going. Since early 1981 the FT-A industrial group p/e has moved up from 7½ to more than 12¼. This improvement shows clear signs of having slowed down—the figure was already 11 by July 1981. So this part of the bull market may be coming to an end.

Further equity gains will tend to be matched closely to company profits. According to P and D, bull markets tend to peak some six months before the biggest gains in profits are made. The firm suggests that for the industry sector these should be coming through at the turn of the year—at about 20 per cent over the level 12 months earlier—suggesting a market peak some time in the second half of 1983. However, a strong counter view is that the corporate sector has at least a couple of years of healthy profit recovery to look forward to.

The equity market has not been behaving in text-book fashion in recent years. Rather than advancing or retreating on a broad front, particular sectors have been moving in opposite directions in a much more pronounced way than used to be the case. So the choice between areas of the equity market may be just as critical as that between shares and cash for investors battening down the hatches ahead of a downturn in the overall market index.

Lucas

The launch of the BL Maestro and the glimmering of recovery in UK car manufacturing came far too late to shore up Lucas's figures for the half year to January. After taking a further £8.1m redundancy charge above the line and absorbing both a £14.2m interest charge and a £700,000 loss from the Ducellier associate in France, the group slipped to pre-tax losses of £5.2m against a £7m profit last year.

Once again, Lucas has been hit most painfully in its core UK motor components business. Pre-tax profits in the aerospace division were virtually maintained at £8.6m, and the West German brake company held up well. But UK volume in car components fell by around 9 per cent and spare parts fell by 15 per cent as the expanding population of foreign cars took its toll on Lucas' market share. With prices virtually stagnant, trading margins have also slipped from 3.8 per cent a year ago to 3.0 per cent.

Lucas has decided to hold its interim dividend after cutting last year's final by 22 per cent. But the company was deliberately cautious yesterday about the prospects for the rest of this year and there must be a question mark over the final. The dividend payment, at £7.8m net last year, is not large in relation to the company's size. Yet at the halfway stage, after its customary heavy tax and minorities charge, it was showing an attributable loss of £11.3m.

The current half year is already showing some improvement at the trading level, with volume in the car business up by 7 per cent. But there will be further redundancy costs to bear, while the additional expense of servicing a slight cash outflow will leave the interest charge at a relatively high level. In the space of the last three years, Lucas has shouldered the costs of trimming its workforce by 24,000 while holding its debt-equity ratio to around 50 per cent. But in a sector where the technology is moving both rapidly and towards longer component life, Lucas is condemned to continued restructuring. If it manages £20m profits in 1984, it will be trading on a prospective multiple of 25, and with the dividend prop being whittled away, the shares could slip further after Thursday's 6p fall to 156p.